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Seijo no Kaifuku Mahou ga Dou Mitemo Ore no Rekkaban na Ken ni Tsuite

Arc 1: No matter how I see the Saint's
Recovery Magic, it's a Deteriorated Version
of Mine

by Sergeant Kinako

[Novel Updates](#)

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Illustrations

「ご主人様、今日は最後まで洗つてほしい……です」



Chapter 1: I can only use Heal

“Heal!”

It’s a clear day today, good for using recovery magic.

I, Arnest, witnessed someone using recovery magic and am now completely engrossed in it.

Originally, one needed to make a huge donation to the church to be taught recovery magic. However, I understood as a child that it wasn’t an amount I could afford, being born in a family of commoners.

So what could I do?

That is, I had no choice but to learn it by myself.

“So let’s do it!”

I cut off my own arm. It hurt considerably in the past, but now it only itches a little.

“Er.. Heal!”

My arm regrows in an instant. Within a few seconds, my arm has completely emerged from my shoulder just like before.

Eh, I’ve learnt recovery magic somehow? To a point where I can manage even if someone is on the brink of death. First it was a finger, then a hand, leg, arm. Generally speaking, I did whatever was possible. But this is probably the limit with self-study. Soon I’ll have to get someone to teach me.

It seems recovery magic is deemed highly valuable just with its aptitude to be used on everything. I think that I'll be able to save enough for the donation by working hard and doing a little medical treatment in a large town.

I'll be 16 today. It's the age where I'm considered an adult. I've been patient until now, but that ends today. Today, I've already received my parents' permission to leave the village.

"Hey Nest! You're going already?"

"Pops! I've already finished my preparations so it's fine!"

I hitch a ride with a merchant caravan and travel with them to town.

The town was massive. Something like my village can't compare. But the capital is even bigger, which is quite startling.

"E-excuse me.. This is the Adventurers' Guild, right?"

Currently I'm at the Adventurers' Guild. I don't plan on becoming an adventurer.

"It is, are you a new recruit by any chance?"

The reception is full of beauties but this one having long, brown hair down to her waist is impressive. It's a bit intense for someone like me, who isn't used to women.

"N-no. I'm not here to register but I wanted to borrow one of the guild's

tables.”

Speaking of the guild, there are many people gathered. Rather than getting my own place, I think it's better to do it at the guild.

“Err.. What are your plans for that?”

It might just seem that way but I feel like she's being rather cautious. P-please don't glare at me like that. I'm afraid to say it so bluntly.

“I-it's.. like this. T-that.. as work surface.....”

I stuttered too much. But she's a receptionist. As one would expect, she understood what I wanted to say.

“Oh, so that's it. I'm sorry. I think it's alright if it's that but it's part of the regulations so I'll have you meet the guild master, okay?”

To think I'll see the guild master. Eh, isn't this a bit hasty?

“Guild master! It's me, but are you free at the moment?”

“Yeah, it's fine.”

The receptionist brought me to a room. Inside, was a child.

“H-huh? Why a child.....?”

“Oh, it's because I'm an elf. We age slowly no matter what. I may look like this

but I'm already over 100."

"A loli-granny!? Ha! Sorry, I came from the countryside so...."

That's right, if don't straighten up, I might not be able to borrow the table.

"This time, this is.. er....."

"Ah, my name is Arnest. Close friends call me Nest though."

"Understood. So Arnest-san here said he wanted to borrow one of the guild's tables so he could do some medical treatment."

Ah, she didn't go and call me Nest without hesitation. Well it's true that I wouldn't be a good match for her, but still!! My appearance score!!! The one that lets everyone say it!!

"So it's that sort of thing. Er, so you were Nest, right? What recovery magic can you use?"

"Er.. only Heal but is that okay?"

Right, I can only use Heal. I don't know whether my magic pool is considered large but I think I can use it enough times. Before, I tested how many times I could use it in a day but in the end I cast it from morning to night and still had so much surplus. The magic consumption for Heal might be considered small.

"Hmm. Only Heal, huh....."

As expected, she's making a serious face. Who was it! Who said that just being able to use recovery magic is highly valued!

“Actually, there isn’t anyone who can use recovery magic in this town right now. Even if you can only use Heal, there’ll probably be many customers coming to you but I’m wondering if you can handle all that. Also, apparently there are individual differences between healers as a rule, even for Heal.”

“Ah, I should be fine with the number of people. I have plenty of surplus even if I cast throughout the whole day.”

“?.. The magic consumption for recovery magic should be pretty extreme though....? Could it be that Nest isn’t talking about Heal...? He did say he came from the countryside....”

For some reason, she looks down and mutters. Sigh, maybe it really is no good. I can’t just return to the village like this either. Sigh, really, what should I do?

“Hey, Nest. Can you show us your recovery magic? There’s something I want to check.”

Oh, is this perhaps my last chance!? If I fail, there’s no more. I have to do my best.

“U-um, then I’ll cast it now so which should I cut off, both of my arms or both legs? I can’t really use a blade very well so...”

“”Huh?””

The receptionist and guild master’s voices overlap. Eh, is that not enough.....? Perhaps, my head!?

“Ah, I’m sorry. As one would expect, the head is impossible! I’m sorry!”

“N-no, that’s not it? Or rather, will you be fine with both your arms or legs?”

The guild master and receptionist look at me doubtfully. Hm, what does she mean? It's not like I would die if I cut off both legs.

"Er.. I'm okay with both arms or legs though....?"

"Guild master, perhaps he's talking about haemostasis. I'm certain Heal can cure injuries of that level...."

"Hmm, maybe he's thinking that he can get his arm healed later or something. That's still quite pitiful so we'll have him make a little cut at most. It'll be appreciated if he can cure even that much...."

The two seem to be in deep conversation for some reason. Maybe I'm too incompetent for the guild to use or something.....

"Hey, Nest. It's fine to just cut your hand a little. You can cut it yourself in that case, right?"

"That's true, that's good."

They seemed to be on the same wavelength but as expected, I'm so incompetent that even cutting is unpleasant.... The guild master really is too unreasonable. Let's finish quickly and head to another place....

"Er.. A little of my hand, right....? Understood...."

Who's to blame for the low tension! No, I can't blame anyone!

I cut off my hand. The hand fell to the floor.

""!"

The two made a surprised face. Was my cutting technique really that poor? I was never bothered by it until now though.

"Oi! What are you doing! We only said it's fine to cut your hand a little, you idiot!! What are you going to do, cutting off your hand!?"

Huh? ..Did I upset her somehow?

"Guild master, focus on treatment rather than that! Nest-san, quickly stop the bleeding!!"

Ah, I got the receptionist lady to call me Nest. She seems rather panicked though. Alright! With just this, I can continue living from tomorrow onwards!

"Heal."

My arm heals. Ah, it's bad! I made the room all bloody! What to do, they won't tell them to compensate for the cleaning, will they?

""Huh?""

"Er.. I'm finished. But it's still no good, right, with just this much."

There's probably no need to hear the result. Or rather, this is really embarrassing!

“I’ll do the cleaning tomorrow so please let me go home for today....”

I turn the doorknob with a dispirited countenance.

“Wai.. wai.. wait a moment.”

“Eh.”

The receptionist restrains me in a hug from behind. I’ll say it again. Restrains me in a hug. To put it simply, her large chest is touching my back.

“aiodnpaoe;aomdijsaaaaaaaa”

Unable to endure that elasticity, I immediately wrench myself away from the receptionist and flee the area.

-----[Receptionist
POV]-----

“H-he ran away.”

When I say that, the guild master finally recovered from this situation.

“W-What the hell was that? He said ‘Heal’, but if that’s a Heal then what’s to become of the recovery magic of our world? Trash?”

The Heal he used evidently deviated from the norm. Just when I thought he cut off his hand, he recovered in a matter of seconds. A new one regrew. What

used to be hand is currently lying on the floor.

“A regrettable thing happened.”

He probably won’t come to the guild any more. I don’t know what he intended but if it was going to turn out like this, I should have lent him the table or whatever from the beginning.

“Hey you. The scar on your neck, h-hasn’t it healed?”

“Eh.....”

It was something I acquired in the past, when I was an active adventurer. I took that opportunity to retire from being an adventurer and take the reception job, everyone in the vicinity felt creeped out because of it. Nowadays it’s covered by the hair I grew out but....

The guild master hands me a mirror.

Reflected was my flawless neck.

I saw that extraordinary recovery, so I could only believe that it was due to him no matter what I considered.

“Nest, huh.....”

Somehow, my cheeks feel hot.

Chapter 2: Is this a Punishment Game?

My vision is dominated by darkness. The thing that covers my body is a little cool but it feels nice.

Eh, where am I? Of course it's inside my futon. After the grand incident at the guild, I rented a room in the inn and went to sulk in bed.

“Sigh, what should I do from tomorrow on.... But before that, I have to go back to clean up. It'll be hard to face them though.”

Knock-knock.

I thought the door sounded but it's the first time I came to this town so I shouldn't have anyone to visit me.

Knock-knock.

I can hear it again..... Maybe I'm just longing for company. Sigh, let's sleep already.

Knock-knock!

Or rather, it really isn't me!

“Ah, excuse me! I'm opening it now!”

It was the innkeeper auntie.

“Right now there's a guest of yours downstairs. They're waiting below so come down when you're ready.”

No matter what I think, it must be the guild. No, if I'm unlucky then it might

be the guards coming because I caused a problem at the guild.....

.....Should I run?

With the decision made, I immediately put it into practice. I vigorously dive out the window without looking down clearly.

Below me was the receptionist lady but she was waiting with a smile.

“Eh.”

“As expected, I thought you would come here. (smile)”

It was too late to return to my room and I fell towards the receptionist in accordance with gravity. At this rate, we'll collide.

But as expected of the receptionist she caught me with no difficulty whatsoever. With the so-called princess carry. I'm a guy though! A guy though!? I thought it was something serious so I unintentionally..... I'm sorry.

“Um.. If possible, I'd like you let me down some time soon but...”

“Er, it's fine to let you down, but please don't run away, okay?”

“....So you really came to arrest me?”

“Er.. Let's head to the guild first.”

The receptionist lead me by the hand, my tense fretting reducing. The surrounding gazes are painful.

“Joined by our hands and such, will (I) be alright.....?”

“Ah, (I'm) totally fine though? Well certainly there might be hindrances (in my work) from here on though.”

“Casualties!?” [T/N: Hindrances and Casualties had the same pronunciation]

So in the city, just holding hands with a beauty will cause casualties..... It's too terrifying.

Now, I have come to the guild room for the second time today. Inside the room is me, the receptionist and the guild master, us three people.

“Nest, it’s good that you came. Actually, I wanted to talk about your recovery magic.

“Er.. right....”

It’s probably to announce the result, but I already know that I’m no good so it would have been fine if they didn’t summon me.....

“First of all, where did you learn recovery magic?”

“Er.. I learnt it through self-study though.....”

We’re just an ordinary household! We didn’t have that much money.

“.....How did you learn it?”

Hm? How, you say..

“F-first I cut a finger. Afterwards, I also cut my arm or leg. And so, that’s how I learnt Heal.”

“I see....”

She suddenly sinks into silence with a serious face for a short while before

looking up.

“And then, that’s your Heal?”

“Eh, i-it is a Heal though....?”

Maybe it was so bad that it couldn’t be considered a Heal. Self-study really is tough.....

“Finally, what do you want to do at the guild?”

Regarding what I want to do at the guild.....?

“It’s to earn money, yeah.”

“Why are you trying to earn money?”

“Er.. I learnt recovery magic through self-study, but I could really only learn Heal so I wanted to learn from an expert. And I expect I need a lot of money so.....”

And if I do that, I’ll probably be able to learn a lot more recovery spells.

I don’t know if the questioning ended but the guild master and receptionist had a deep conversation after that.

-----[Guild Master
POV]-----

Right now I was thinking about the person before me, Nest.

I don’t know what he was thinking but he suddenly fled after performing such

unbelievable recovery magic in the guild.

Asha (the receptionist) brought him back but when I inquire about it, it seems that recovery magic was Heal.

Originally, Heal only resulted in curing cuts at best. No, even that would be welcome enough but Nest's spell didn't just end at Heal, it was an extraordinary product.

And yet he thinks that that's below-average and came to get lessons from an expert.

"Guild master, what do you think we should do about him? Shall I set him up in the guild?"

Asha gained trust because of the scar on her neck so she proposed that to me.

".....Hmm, let's lend him some space in the guild."

-----[Arnest
POV]-----

"Nest, the guild will let you use some space!"

I thought they were deep in conversation but I'm suddenly given permission from the guild.

"Eh, really! Thank you so much!"

T-that's great. With this, I'm relieved for the time being. I thought it was

certainly no good but I was surprised by the contrary.

“Also, don’t tell the others but.....”

Eh, what....? Is it something bad.....?

“What you used wasn’t Heal.”

Sho—ck! It’s super bad. I never thought she’d say that what I used wasn’t Heal....

“No, it’s not like it’s really a bad thing.”

No, no, it is a bad thing. Because even though I said I can use Heal, to be told that it wasn’t heal.... Is this a punishment game?

“Didn’t you know? A normal Heal is only effective for sealing cuts.”

Eh, Heal only seals cuts.....?

“Eh, but my Heal can restore an arm or leg though.”

I was sure that was normal but I was wrong?

“That’s abnormal. It’s true that I’m not an expert but even I know that’s strange.”

S-seriously?

“Well, a Saint or someone like that might be able to achieve that level though.”

“What’s a Saint?”

I was charmed by this new word.

“It’s the title that the church in the city grants to the top excelling healer. And I hear the current generation is quite a beauty.”

A-are you serious!!! A healer like me, and also the top..... And a beauty at that!!

“As expected, Nest-san is also interested in that.”

A cold voice resounds.

“M-miss....?”

“I’m Asha. I’m not Miss.”

Asha-san declares bluntly.

“R-right, Asha-san! I’m sorry!”

“No, it’s fine? You are a boy. I Understand.”

She's not understanding at all. Because Asha-san's smile.. is scary.....

“.....returning to the subject at hand, I suppose only the Saint could possibly have the capacity to teach you.”

“Is that so. I never thought my recovery magic would be unexpectedly amazing, I seriously thought it was average.”

“Unexpected is an understatement, it's already so monstrous you can't compare. Ah, speaking of which, the Saint is coming here tomorrow.”

Monstrous..... Yeah, I'm not particularly happy about that.

“You said the Saint is coming!? Tomorrow!?”

“Yup, she goes around to guild to heal the injured as charity.”

Tomorrow..... I might be able to meet the Saint tomorrow. Perhaps I might be able to ask her to teach me. In terms of what I can do today, there's nothing but sleeping early!!

“Guild master, Asha-san! I'm heading back to sleep now! And about the guild, thank you very much~~!”

And so, I planned to go back and sleep, but the innkeeper found out that I jumped out the window and I was severely scolded.

I-I didn't cry though!!!

Chapter 3: You'll accept?

I had been severely scolded by the innkeeper, but now I was full of anticipation.

Why? That's obvious. It's because I can meet 'Saint-sama'. It seems her medical treatment is available to the public so it's easy to see her.

What's important is the extent of recovery magic that 'Saint-sama' can use.

And what's even more important is how beautiful 'Saint-sama' is. How beautiful the Saint is!!

The town was full of energy. There were many people opening stands on the street. It's like a mini-festival already.

"Hey, did you hear? Apparently Saint-sama is coming to town!"

"Oh, you're quick! When will the medical treatment start?"

"It seems Saint-sama will start right after having a short rest."

I kept my ears open and gathered information. Heh, it's not like I don't have any friends because I only recently came to this town!

I head there early to take a position as far forward as possible so I would be able to see. Luckily there were only a few people so I could take up a position easily.

It appears there's still some time before it starts. I made a mistake, I could have bought something suitable to eat. I haven't even eaten breakfast so I'm hungry.....

“Er.. Nest-kun? G-good morning.”

“Ah!? Wh-who are hyu?”

I couldn't not bite my tongue! Because in front of my eyes was a woman with an hourglass figure!?

“It's me, Asha.”

I-I never thought it'd be Asha-san.....

“Ah, good morning. I didn't recognise you without your uniform.”

Because I've never seen Asha-san in plain clothes before..... Or rather, she really is a beauty!

“Er.. so what are you doing here, Asha-san? Did you come to see Saint-sama too?”

“Y-yeah. There's that too but I thought I might run into you so.....”

“Eh, what was that?”

Her voice lowered half way through the sentence so I couldn't hear it.

“Come to think of it, have you eaten? It's fine if you haven't but to be honest, I made a lunchbox... How about it?”

B-by ‘how about it’, is she talking about eating together?

I thank Asha-san and feast on the lunchbox.

“D-delicious!!”

What the heck, it's super tasty!! So Asha-san was good at cooking..... And she's a beauty! A major beauty!! If she was my wife.....

“G-gulp.”

Nevertheless, I can only dream. No matter how hard I try, I won't be a good match for Asha-san. It's too bad I wasn't born handsome but I can continue living with just this lunchbox!

“This really is delicious, it's already at a level you can't buy. I envy the one who will become your husband!”

If I was handsome, I would probably be able to eat this cooking for breakfast, lunch and dinner but it's too bad.....

“Eh!?”

Asha-san's face suddenly turns red. She's become flustered for some reason.

“Th-then Nest-kun will accept (me)?”

“Eh, of course I'll accept (the lunchbox)!”

“Eeeehhhh!?”

What's the matter, Asha-san? I wonder if I did something bad.

“So.. I can’t have the lunchbox?”

“Eh, lunchbox?

Asha-san questions, suddenly freezing. She has already become ghastly.

“Y-you weren’t talking about the lunchbox.....? To accept or not.....”

When I said that, Asha-san turned bright red with an inaudible *poof* and ran away. Wh-what should I do with this lunchbox..... Would it be alright to eat it....?

People have gradually assembled by the time I finished the lunchbox. Obviously, there were a great number of injured people.

From what I hear around me, it seems it’ll start soon.

People in the vicinity cheer loudly. It looks like the Saint-sama I’ve been eagerly waiting for has appeared. Come, beauty!!

Saint-sama appeared before us. She’s covered by a thick hood.

A commotion gradually spread through the area, like the others also thought it was strange.

“Good morning everyone.”

A single statement, spoken in a clear voice. It wasn’t said very loudly but it resounded in the vicinity. Even the commotion settled down because of it.

“Now then, I will start the medical treatment.”

As expected of the Saint, she heals injuries in a twinkle. However, they were all just grazes and such, so the amazing magic I was looking forward to was not seen.

I could only strengthen my resolve and then approached the Saint as a patient. As one would expect, I covered myself with a hood so I wouldn't stand out in the future.

“Hello, what would you like me to heal?”

Hearing it from up close, she has an even prettier voice. And then I took a fleeting peek into Saint-sama’s hood to see her face. I could tell she was a beauty even with the small glimpse.

“Um.. I want to have you heal my arm but....”

“? Your arm doesn’t look like it’s injured though....”

“Ah, I’ll do it now, so please.”

And then I cut off an arm.

“!? What are you doing!? I’ll heal you now so please stand still.”

S-Saint-sama got mad at me..... Certainly, I might have overdone it. A large quantity of blood flowed out from the base of my arm even now.

“High Heal!!”

Oh, so this is Saint-sama's magic.. Ah.....?

"Um.. Are you...finished?"

The blood has stopped. But that's all, the arm hasn't healed.

"You! Why did you do such a stupid thing!! To cut off an arm!! Honestly, you won't be able to use it again, you know!?"

"Huh? Wasn't Saint-sama able to heal an arm.....?"

The people in the vicinity watched with bated breath.

"Are you an idiot!? There's no way I can recover it!? I don't mean to boast but I know more than anyone else in terms of recovery magic. Even so, I've never heard of a spell that can regrown a severed arm."

I stood there in shock. Eh, then what about my Heal? Who am I going to learn recovery magic from.....?

"That kind of... I'm sorry."

I made a brief statement to the surrounding people, picked up my arm and returned to the inn in a daze.

In that case, what the hell is my recovery magic....? I can easily do something that even Saint-sama can't manage.

“Sigh.... This can’t be anything but monstrous then....”

I mutter to myself mockingly while healing my arm. I finally understood how strange it was for me to regrow my arm by simply casting Heal.

From here on, I shouldn’t use such excessive recovery magic as much as possible.

I etched that into my mind.

Chapter 4: Try to get acknowledged!

I came to the Guild the following day. It seems I haven't been exposed as the one from yesterday, thanks to the hood covering me.

"Good morning, Asha-san. Ah, here's the lunch box from yesterday. It was delicious."

"Good morning, Nest-san. Thank you for specifically bringing back the lunch box. In regards to the medical treatment, we prepared the table over there so please use it."

Asha-san points to a table as she says that.

"Basically, the price is up to you to decide. Obviously that would be too expensive, but Nest-san need not worry about it. Best regards."

So she says, but I don't feel like doing medical treatment today. It seems my Heal is abnormal so I want to be able to use a normal Heal at the least. If I can't learn it in one day today then I'll also do it tomorrow but unlike the past, I was able to see the genuine spell in close proximity. I think I'll probably be able to master it easily.

[Starting medical treatment. The price will be negotiated after examining the injury.]

"Alright."

I set up the sign I had made in advance on the table top. The people around

looked over to see what I was doing but they seemed somewhat delighted after reading the sign.

I fetched a knife from my belongings.

“Then let’s start.”

Unlike before, I’m leaving a small scar on my hand. There’s no point in healing everything now, so I focus on healing to leave a small scar.

“Heal.”

I wanted to only heal it a little but naturally, everything was healed on my first try and it ended in a failure.

I continued to repeat it over and over so I could at least improve my magic control slightly.

“Heal.”

I don’t know how many tries it took, but I finally succeeded.

Afterwards, I continued to do favourably and didn’t make any blunders.

With this, I can use a Heal without looking suspicious.

I didn’t have anything further to do so I left the guild.

I saw something interesting when returning to the inn. It was a ‘slave market’.

I’ve never experienced something like this in my life before so I was a little curious.

There were many slaves in the Slave Market. A variety of species, from humans to elves. Of course, the slaves were expensive. I didn't have any particular urge to buy any but I caught sight of some text when looking around.

[A challenge from the Slave market! Try to get acknowledged by this beautiful princess!]

The contents simply stated that 'There is a disobedient slave who was formerly a princess. If she acknowledges you as her master then we'll offer her to you for free! However, please leave behind half the money you carry on you if you fail. ※Anyone can try.'

I'm only carrying a little bit of money so I might as well try. I'll earn it back from tomorrow anyway.... It's best to try now, when I have no money!

And so, I was supposed to be meeting the former princess now but she was at the back, looking after a girl who was lying on a bed.

The girl who was peeking out from the back had short, red hair and exuded an indescribable charm.

The girl on the bed was blue, like she was sick, and it wasn't a bit inferior to the blue colour of her hair.

"Um... Miss former princess? I wanted to chat with you for a bit....."

"Stop talking! I'm busy at the moment so hurry up and leave!!"

This is good business for Slave Market-san. I think it's a little harsh though....

"Er.. that girl is?"

I thought the princess was being unreasonable, so I ask about the girl who has been concerning me for a while now.

“..... She’s my little sister. We’re not related by blood though.”

“Right.. So that’s it. How should I put it, doesn’t her condition look rather bad?”

If that wasn’t so, I don’t think the princess would be nursing her so frantically.

“This girl is ill. Furthermore, it’s an illness without a cure. Right now she’s somehow surviving with medicine, but I have to chase you guys away so I can buy that medicine. And so, won’t you leave soon?”

I see.... So there’s such a method for earning money in this age. The people from the Slave Market are pretty smart. Well done, well done.

But what should I do....? I should be using some recovery magic here, huh. She’s just so pitiful.....Sigh.

“Heal.”

I had decided not to use it as much as possible but it can’t be helped.

The girl was bathed in light. The light disappears in an instant and left behind is a healthy looking girl who was sleeping.

“Eh, wh-what did you do!?”

“Er.. It’s just some recovery magic. That girl should be cured now.”

“Recovery magic, you say.....”

The princess's jaw dropped in surprise.

"Then I'll be leaving now. She'll probably wake up soon, I think."

"Eh, wai-wait a minute!"

The princess grabs my arm when I attempt to leave the room. I feel a sense of déjà vu.....

"D-don't you want me!? Isn't that why you healed her!?"

Right, it's true that it seems that way when looking at it objectively..... But it's not like I really want a slave.

"Er.. I only tried because I thought it would be interesting but come to think of it, my lodging fees will increase so I don't really want a slave."

"Don't really want a slave!?"

The princess looks like she received a shock for some reason, but I ignore her and head outside.

"B-but I can be your night time companion as well.....?"

Flinch

First of all, it goes without saying but, I have no experience with women. I'm a virgin. So when I receive such sweet temptations, my HP drops down to 1.

“B-but what will happen to that girl when you leave?”

I attempted a counterattack with only 1 HP.

“She’s actually not a slave, she’s just here. S-so you’ll even get a bonus this time.”

—————Mother, father, I’m sorry. My HP is already at 0.

“Haa~ I finally got to leave that place!”

Walking beside me is the princess. The girl is sleeping on my back.

The people from the slave market were extremely surprised in the beginning, but they were professionals. They immediately straightened their faces and finalised the contract. I pretended that I didn’t see the hint of frustration on their faces.

Or rather, I gained a slave but what should I do from here on.....? I was the only one who felt troubled.

Chapter 5: The sensation of her butt was nosebleed-inducing!

“Then let’s first introduce ourselves.”

Currently we were in the inn’s dining hall. The girl was deeply asleep on my lap even now.

To be honest, I’m only just repenting the fact that I brought them along without even knowing their names.

“Firstly, my name is Arnest. My close friends call me Nest. I’ll be your master from today on, so let’s get along.”

“I-I’m Aura. Um.. Although I said I would also be your night time companion as well, th-that was.. how should I put it, just so you would take us with you, or rather..... Mmph!?”

I cover Aura’s mouth, who was trying to say some unthinkable words in the middle of the dining hall.

“Y-you idiot! Where do you think you are? Anyway, I never had that kind of intention so it’s fine.”

In truth, I had been thinking about it but it was probably better to keep that a secret.

Nevertheless, the surrounding gazes were painful..... It might be possible that they heard that statement just now.

“Let’s not talk about such things in public, okay? Because it’s dangerous (to my life).”

Aura nodded frantically at my compelling smile.

“So, this girl is?”

“Yeah.. Her name’s Lily. You can’t touch her, okay? Because she’s still a child.”

“I-I know that. Besides, I’m not a lolicon.”

Well, it’s certainly true that Lily, the girl sleeping on my lap is cute and I want to touch her cheeks. B-but that’s different, right?

“In that case, it’s fine.....”

And yet Aura continues looking at me in sceptically. Heh, it’s not like I have a particularly guilty conscience, okay!?

After our respective introductions, we returned to my room. I considered getting another room for them, but Aura said it was fine so we ended up staying in the same room.

There wasn’t anything I needed to do in particular so we quickly washed up and went to sleep.

Here, an incident occurred.

“No, I am a man after all, I can’t let a girl sleep on the floor.”

“That’s not good! I’m a slave, so it’s unacceptable to let my master sleep on the floor while I sleep on the bed by myself.”

This situation continued for a while. While I was worried about what to do, I happened to catch sight of Lily.

“.....If I sleep on the bed, I might assault Lily.”

Of course, I had no intention of doing that but if I don’t say something like this, Aura probably wouldn’t sleep on the bed.

“T-to think you would have that kind of hobby.....”

Hm? Aren’t you taking it a little too seriously? B-but now that it’s come to this, I’ll have to persevere until I get her to sleep on the bed!

“That’s right, I’m a genuine lolicon. And the sensation of Lily’s butt on my lap was nosebleed-inducing!

“Uwah.... Th-then I’ll sleep on the bed. So the lolicon will sleep on the floor.”

Aura’s gaze was at absolute zero.

It may look like this but as far as it goes, I’m still her master..... Well I did get her to sleep on the bed, so I can just rationalise it tomorrow.....

-----[Aura
POV]-----

I am Aura, a former princess and currently a slave.

Even I know that I’m a slightly unusual slave. I was told to chase them away

when a person who wanted to buy me appeared.

Truthfully, I didn't want to listen to them but right now my little sister, Lily is sick.

That guy came while I was nursing Lily.

"Um... Miss former princess? I wanted to chat with you for a bit....."

I originally had no intention of being his companion but he was different from the usual customer.

Usually they apply pressure on me when talking because I'm a slave, but he seemed fairly modest.

That was part of it but even though I usually won't talk, before I realised, I even went so far as to tell him about Lily.

That's not good, Aura, hasn't everyone been the same until now? Besides, even if he's a good person, I can't leave this cage while I have Lily.

"Heal."

What did he mutter? The moment I thought that, Lily's body was covered in light. When the light dissipated, Lily had a certain change.

Her pained sleeping face from before now looked healthy.

What he said was that he used recovery magic to cure her illness. I thought that now I could freely go with him but-

"I don't really want a slave."

Eh!? What did that mean!? I thought for sure that he performed the treatment because he wanted me but it seems I was wrong.

But if I don't get him to take us along now, I really will end up being sold to a stranger somewhere. I definitely don't want that. He was still leaving the room while I was wondering if there was any way to detain him somehow.

"B-but I can be your night time companion as well.....?"

Truthfully, I've never done such a thing before, and I don't want to do it if possible. Even so, I didn't miss this perfect opportunity. Sure enough, he took custody of us in the end.

I only realised that I didn't ask him for his name after we arrived at a cafeteria-like place.

It seems that his name is Arnest. But what should I call him..... I'm a slave so should probably call him Master or something. Or should I call him Nest like a close friend, or so I wonder.

Nest said he would rent a room for us but I couldn't inconvenience him any further, so we stayed in the same room.

Even so, another incident occurred.

Nest was surrendering the bed to us to slept on the floor. Even if he's my master, I have no excuse for letting him do so.

I don't know what he was thinking but Nest seemed to grin while we were still in a stalemate.

".....If I sleep on the bed, I might assault Lily."

The astonishing thing was, when I got into bed and thought about it clearly, I realised that it was probably his means of making me sleep in the bed.

He looked so pitiful sleeping on the floor so I covered him with a futon and returned to the bed to sleep.

Good night, Nest. My first master.

Chapter 6: There was even physical damage.....!

“Wake up, Nest. It’s morning.”

.....Crap, somehow I’m hallucinating enough that I hear a little girl. I must be tired, let’s sleep some more.

“Jeez, I said Wake up, Nest. There!”

Looks like I’m fairly tired. Because when I opened my eyes a little, a little girl came diving at me from above. Alright, let’s sleep- “Oomph!”

T-to think there was even physical damage....!

“Hm, it’s Lily?”

She finally understands that I’m awake.

“Nice to meet you! I’m Lily! Also, thank you for curing my illness!”

“Mm, you’re welcome.”

Yesterday I was worried whether my recovery magic was enough, but she’s cured now so it’s all good. If I was told that they “didn’t really ask for it” or something I’d cry.

We make plans for hereafter while eating breakfast in the dining hall.

“Er.. I’m kinda starting a little business in the Guild from today on though. What will you guys do? I suppose you’re free to join me.”

“In that case, can I stay at the inn and rest? I’m still quite tired.”

“Roger that. What about you, Lily?”

“I’ll go with Nest!”

“OK. Then I’ll leave you to house-sit, Aura. I think we’ll be returning around dusk.”

Currently, I have borrowed the guild’s table and will commence the medical treatment. Lily, who thought for sure that she would be with Aura, is sitting on my lap quietly.

And indeed, a middle-aged man who looked like an adventurer came along.

“Oh, laddie. I want a little healing so can I rely on you?”

“Can I see what you’d like me to heal?”

It looks like the man has injured his arm. It was quite a deep wound, but this much probably won’t arouse suspicion.

“If it’s this much then I can heal it.”

“How much will it cost?”

Hmm, what’s the general price for something like this? I should treat this patient first before I go ask Asha-san.

“Um.. You’re my first patient so I won’t charge you. In return, could you tell me how much a Heal usually costs? Er.. Heal.”

The man was surprised as he watched his wound disappear in a flash.

“This is astonishing! Healers are amazing! Wouldn’t something like this be around 1000 En? But I’m not really sure either.” [T/N: ~\$10]

The man left with a word of thanks. I hope the man will spread the word.

After that, I made the base price 1000 En like the man recommended.

For the first day of medical treatment, I stayed open from morning to dusk but I was unexpectedly surprised by the large number of people. Thanks to that my wallet was currently full.

In the meanwhile, Lily had been sitting on my lap while smiling. Ooh! So cute!!

I stopped by a clothes store on the way home. Of course, it was to buy Lily some clothing.

It took us an hour to finally decide with a lot of trial-and-error with the shop assistant

“Nest! Thanks for the new clothes!”

“Mn, you’re welcome.”

We were a little delayed in returning home but Aura should be fine.

—————I might have been naïve with that belief.

Aura leapt at us the moment I opened the door.

“Wai.. I’m sorry for being late. But you shouldn’t.. be angry... at that.....”

Aura looked down at us, her eyes swollen.

“I-It’s not like I thought you weren’t returning! Despite saying you would return in the evening, you hadn’t come back for a while! Just to be clear, I didn’t think that I had been abandoned by you!!”

Aura’s tears fell down her cheeks drop by drop.

I had only been a little late. However, it was probably long enough for Aura to think that.

“Sorry, I wasn’t really thinking.....”

“Sniff.. I’m going with you from tomorrow onwards, absolutely. I’ll follow you even if you say no.”

“Is that so.... Then let’s go together.”

I’ll have to consider Aura and Lily more, or so I thought again.

Aura eventually calmed down and we headed to dinner.

“It’s been bothering me for a while now but Lily’s wearing new clothes, right?

“Eh? Yeah.. I was the one who bought it though.”

“Where’s mine?”

“Hm? Ah.. I’m sorry?”

The next day, we bought Aura’s portion. My wallet has gotten lighter.

Chapter 7: A.. A Tomboy!?

A few days passed since I started doing medical treatment at the guild.

As should be expected of the guild, it had the most patients.

I was pressed to deal with patients today as well. The injuries themselves were healed in an instant but unfortunately there were so many patients that I was shorthanded.

Aura and Lily were helping out as well but it still wasn't enough.

“Ah! I’m so tired! Isn’t this a little too many!?”

“What are you saying? If you have the time to say that then quickly get back to work!”

“But still, there’s a little under 1000 people a day!? It’s tough all the same.”

This is most likely happened because there were too many injured patients.

“That’s all for today!”

We were finally released from this hell at dusk.

Today’s earnings were approximately 1 million En. It’s a fact that I made a lot of profit. Actually, I have earned several million in just these past few days.....

“It would be much easier if we had another Nest!”

I wonder how much easier it would be if Lily’s words turned into reality. If there was another me.

..... If there was another me.....?

“What! It’s simple!”

The people around us looked over at my sudden exclamation but I didn’t care. Let’s implement my idea immediately.

“If they’re not here then all we have to do is get them from somewhere else.”

And so I’ve come to the slave market. I had Aura and Lily return ahead of me so I could search freely.

“Well, well, it’s been a while, Nest-sama. What kind of slaves would you like today?”

“It doesn’t matter as long as they can use recovery magic.”

When I tell my request to the slave merchant, someone’s bitter face comes to mind for some reason.

“To be honest, there aren’t many who can heal, and currently this store only has a single one. Would you like to know the price?”

“I brought all I have just in case, but I wonder if it’s enough.”

If it’s too expensive then I just have to earn some more but.....

“It comes up to 5 million but how about it?”

Hmm, it's a little expensive. But I can afford it.

I was debating on whether I should buy them or not, but apparently that slave was smart and could do office work so I decided to buy them.

It seemed the slave in question was a boy around Lily's age and could cast an ordinary Heal without difficulty. He had brown hair but it was quite ruffled.

The boy didn't say a word until we finalised our slave contract and even then he only said, "I'll be in your care, Master."

Right now I was kneeling in the inn. Aura snapped when I brought back a new slave.

"What's the meaning of this, Nest!? You looked very serious so we came back first, so why did you return with a new slave!!"

"I-I'm sorry...."

While I was being scolded, the boy watched on submissively without interjecting.

"Furthermore, you used 5 million of the money we finally saved up!"

You are quite right. However, I really believe it is a necessary expense when thinking about the future.

"I certainly used a lot but I don't regret it!!"

"Why are you being so defiant!!"

The scolding continued endlessly after that and I ended up sleeping outside the room that night.

I'm supposed to be the Master though.....

Ah, I didn't get any dinner either.

-----[Tré
POV]-----

My name is Tré. My family was more affluent than most.

My parents made a large donation to the church and let me learn recovery magic.

However, things happened after that and our family fell to ruin. I don't know where my parents went. I was sold as a slave in the midst of it.

I was originally quite an introvert, and I came to talk less after becoming a slave.

One day, I was bought by a man. That man was someone who ended up being told off by his own slave and chased out of his room.

I was introduced to everyone the next day.

"I-I'm called Tré....."

I haven't spoken in a while so I don't know if I managed to say it properly but everyone smiled and welcomed me.

And today, I was to enter the bath with my master.

I was to wash Master's body so I undressed. But I didn't end up washing his body no matter how much time passed. He had turned to stone in shock for some reason.

"H-hey, Tré. W-weren't you a boy.....!?"

I wonder what Master is talking about.

“U-m... I’m a girl though.....?”

I questioned why, but Master became petrified again.

In the end, he remained unmoving so I washed my body and got out of the bath by myself.

A while later I heard Master’s voice coming out from the bathroom.

“A.. a... a tomboy!???”

I’m in your care from now on, my master.

T/N: Tré refers to herself using ‘Boku’ (usually used by boys), so Arnest calls her a Bokukko [Girl who uses ‘Boku’].

Chapter 8: Wash the front as well....?

Tré, who I thought was a boy, turned out to be a girl – a so-called ‘tomboy’.

I didn’t expect to spend an hour in this derangement but I want to just forget it.

Today is a day off from working at the guild. As expected, casting in succession is harsh on the mind so we have decided to take a break once every three days.

Female clothing is expensive. For guys, you can get something for 1000 En but it’s considered good if it comes to 10,000 En for girls. And now more money is going to vanish from my wallet again.

“Master, how did you learn recovery magic....?”

I think Tré’s been more talkative lately. Now, she will inquire like this, but she hardly spoke in the beginning.

I asked about Tré’s circumstances before and therein I also found out how she learnt recovery magic.

“Hm, I suppose.. through willpower!”

I wasn’t actually taught by the church so it shouldn’t be a lie. I even cut my arm and stuff...

We proceed to the clothes story while chatting. They only had clothes made by professionals so I thought every one of them was good.

I had the shop assistant pick out some clothes and chose from those.

“Master, does this suit me....?”

Tré emerged from the dressing room shyly. I think the cute red & black dress she's wearing suits her a lot.

“Yeah, it's cute.”

“Then, I'll take this...”

“Eh, but you haven't tried them all yet?”

There were a lot picked out but she only tried on one.

“This is.. good.”

In the end, I bought the dress that Tré wanted. She didn't want to dirty it so I didn't forget to get it in a bag.

Now then, next is the hairdressers. Tré's hair had become unkempt, likely because she lived as a slave for so long.

I wander around the store until Tré's haircut is over. I saw a stylish accessory shop en route so I bought some bracelets as souvenirs for Aura and Lily.

When I returned to the hairdressers, Tré had turned into a girl. No, she was a girl from the beginning but now she was adorned with the feeling of THE girl.

Her unkempt hair was now adjusted and she looked very feminine.

Tré herself looked very pleased with the change and had a small smile on her face.

Sure enough, Aura and Lily were surprised by Tré's transformation when we returned to the inn but their attention switches to the bracelets when I bring them out. Then Tré grabs my sleeve.

"Hm, what's up?"

"M-mine is....?"

Ah, crap. I thought she'd be satisfied with the clothing so I didn't prepare anything.

"I-I'm sorry! I forgot to prepare one!In exchange, I'll do anything you want so please forgive me!"

"Anything....."

Having avoided a repeat of Aura's situation, I felt relieved.

"Then, I want to enter the bath.. together.... Because I didn't get to be washed last time....."

A larger bombshell dropped. But I can't refuse because I did say 'anything'.

So now Tré and I were in the bathroom.

"I'll wash you so p-please undress....."

"Mn, I got it.."

Saying that, Tré stripped without hesitation. I was careful to avert my eyes as

much as possible.

Directly touching her would be unreasonable so I wash her body through a towel.

During tha time, Tré, whose back I had been washing, suddenly turns her body this way.

“Wash the front as well....?”

In that situation, I would naturally see Tré’s chest.... It was a child’s, but there were hints of the curves of women..... Uwaahhhh!

“As expected, today is no good!!”

I ran out of the bathroom, my nose dripping with blood.

-----[Tré
POV]-----

I couldn’t get him to wash me again.....

With this and that, I managed to get Master to wash me.

Because I didn’t get washed last time, I felt really good when he washed my back.

Soon, he will finish washing my back. I turned my body to face Master when his hand stopped for a moment.

Master washed my back so I thought it was natural that he wash the front as well but he left while screaming.

I wonder if it really is my chest....

After my chest grows a little more, I wonder if he will wash me then....?

While washing my body, I massage my breasts so they'll grow a little bigger.

Wait for it, Master.....! I'll soon grow bigger and show you.....!

Chapter 9: Today I'm buying a house

A few months have passed since I started working at the guild.

Lately girls from the town have come as well, not just the guildsmen.

It seems to be spread via word of mouth.

Maybe thanks to that, it's reached the point that I'm now known throughout the town and I receive bonus service in some places.

Aura's group have mostly opened up, and lately I feel like they've become somewhat dominative in regards to me.

And now I've hit upon a serious issue.

"Hey, I've wanted to say this for a while now but....."

"Hm, what is it?"

Aura asks from across the table.

"The room is crowded."

Right, the definite shortage of our livelihood is our dwelling. The increase in people has increased our lodging fees and I'm unable to sleep on a bed. It's a big problem.

"That's why.....

.....Today I'm buying a house."

“Eh, you’re buying it today!?”

“Actually, I’ve already talked to the real estate agent. And I thought I’d show you guys before it’s decided.”

“B-but the money....?”

I pat Tré’s head, who was looking at me worriedly.

“We have more than enough!!”

We really do have a surplus. It seems our medical treatment profited more than we imagined, and there’s still plenty remaining even if we buy a house.

“Ya~y!! New house!!”

It looks like Lily was satisfied somehow.

And thus, we were now in front of the house in question.

“Eh, isn’t this too big!?”

I understand what Aura wants to say. Because apparently this is the former residence of an aristocrat.

“Not really. We have plenty of money and I just thought this house was nice but how about it?”

“That sort of thing.. You’re our master and you think it’s good, so we won’t say anything.”

The other two nod in agreement with Aura's words.

"It would be good if you were always like this then....."

"That's different. We have to watch over our master so he doesn't do anything embarrassing."

"Have to watch over!"

Aura says and even Lily is in agreement. Looking closely, even Tré is nodding quietly.

It looks like I have no allies here.....

I inform the real estate agent about purchasing and then we return to the inn. It seems we can move in after next week so they have time to clean up the place.

It's not like I have no thoughts about parting from the inn that I've been indebted to until now.

The kind lady innkeeper who has been looking after a country-boy like me.

The uncle who treats me to delicious cuisine.

And the cute poster-girl.

"Auntie, Uncle. I bought a house so I'm going to be leaving the inn....."

"Oh, so you're leaving soon. Then let's have a farewell party today!"

They decided to quickly have a farewell party at the inn because I was leaving.

"Drink, drink! Today is my treat!"

The innkeeper uncle slaps me on the back while laughing loudly. I'll endure the pain.....!

"So, when are you heading to your new home?"

"Er.. next week I guess?"

"I see, I'd like you to have stayed a little longer though. We'll miss you."

Our clamour continued until the next morning.

-----[Innkeeper's daughter
POV]-----

I am the inn's poster-girl.

One day, a boy my age came to our inn. It seems he came here from a rural village to look for work.

Apparently he was called Arnest-san.

I only saw Arnest-san occasionally when he came to the dining hall, but I accidentally cut my hand because of a mistake.

And then that Arnest-san came and healed my wound somehow. It seems he can use recovery magic.

After that, it reached the point where he'll immediately heal me if he sees that I'm injured.

But at last, Arnest-san decided to leave the inn.

I think I will be lonely.

We had a farewell party. I know that my face heated up whenever I watched

him chatting with everyone.

But I'm the innkeeper's daughter. This once-in-a-lifetime encounter is natural.

And so Arnest-san left the inn.

That day, I cried all day long. Mother didn't say anything.

A while after that, I went to the marketplace on an errand for the inn.

Arnest-san was there somehow.

"Long time no see, Arnest-san! What are you doing here, are you possibly staying at the inn again?"

If he does, I'll tell him my feelings this time. Even if it doesn't come true.....

"Eh? No, I live nearby....? I told your mother and father, but did you not know?"

What. So Mother knew about this!

I wonder what kind of face I'm making now. Even I know that my face is slowly turning red.

"I-I'm sorrrryyyyy....!!!"

That day, I hid in my futon the whole day.

Chapter 10: It's Checkmate!!

“So, let’s start....”

“Yeah, alright....”

“The initial..! Emergency Family Meeting!!”

Right now we are gathered around a table in our newly purchased house. The reason goes without saying.

I am worried about who will do the cooking, cleaning and laundry. What I can do is probably the cleaning at most. I also think I can manage laundry if I try my best.

However, I definitely can’t handle the cooking. Back at the village, I lived at home so I relied on my parents for everything.

“Among you guys, is there anyone who can cook.....?”

How about Aura? Ah, it’s no good, she averted her eyes.

What about Lily! She has question marks floating above her head so she’s no good either.

I-it’s alright, there’s still Tré!

“I’m sorry, Master..... I’ve.. never cooked before so....”

“R-right....”

Tré looked despondent at my hopeful gaze.

“Y-you don’t have to be so worried about it, Tré.”

“But.. from today on.. what should we eat.....?”

That's it, what should we do about this real life issue? It's a little far away to eat in town every meal.

Besides, I'm also concerned that we won't have a balanced diet if we eat out.

“It'll also take time if we employ someone now.”

It's just like Aura says. Even if I buy a slave, there's a lot of preparation to be done first.

“It's checkmate!!”

We have no more moves. I'm in despair! Let's go ask Asha-san! She might even make something for us!

“Master.... Actually, I came across this yesterday....”

While I was thinking of asking Asha-san, Tré puts a leaflet on the table.

[We're hosting a cooking class!! Those of you who can't cook, those of you who want to improve your cooking!! We will grant those wishes of yours!!]

I-is this from God, what good timing!!

“This is it!! Let's all go now!”

“Eeh!? We have to go too!?”

“Of course! Because then we can have a rotation system!”

“Now then, I’ll be starting the cooking class~”

We are now at the cooking class. It looks like there are other interested parties besides us and there are quite a large number of people gathered.

“Today, we-what! The popular Arnest-san has also come today so welcome~!”

Oh, who is.....i-it’s me!? I’m popular now!?

The nearby housewives’ eyes were sparkling with an ‘Oh my,’ feeling.

“Th-this is embarrassing....”

With this and that, we continued attending the cooking classes and managed to acquire a cooking skill to some extent.

Lily even makes our dinner now.

Tré was the only one who still can’t cook. I expected her to be the first to learn it but it seems she’s poor at cooking.

Tré still continues to go attend the cooking classes now so I think she will eventually be able to do it.

Today is the day we go grocery shopping. Together with Lily, I buy one week’s worth of vegetables.

I met the inn’s postergirl-san midway but we managed to acquire our food without any particular problems.

Lately, I get a lot of bonus service from quite a lot of shopkeepers. They wave

their hands while laughing and say that it's in return for all the healing. As for me, I'm very happy about it.

"Nest sure is popular! Everyone is waving their hand for you!"

"No, everyone's just nice."

"Even so, Nest is still a popular person!"

We were chatting happily on the way home.

"It would be good if these days last forever!"

Really, it would be great if this daily life continues for a long time.

I ended up thinking such out-of-character thoughts.

Lily was in charge of dinner that night and as expected, Lily's cooking was delicious.

—————However, none of us noticed the gradual approach of an oncoming threat to our daily life.

Chapter 11: Well then, let's go

That day was the same as usual, a monotonous day.. or so it should have been.

And yet, in my line of sight was an army of Goblins.

And leading them, was a Goblin King.

There was no one behind me. Aura and Lily, and Tré who usually follow me were not there.

How did it come to this?

To explain this, we'll have to go back a few hours.

“Now then, let's start for today!”

Saying that, I set up my [Starting medical treatment. The price will be negotiated after examining the injury] sign on the table.

Aura and Lily sort out the patients already lining up, and then Tré and I heal them.

My work has been a lot calmer since Tré came.

It seems Tré's recovery magic is outstanding and she's been working hard even though it's not at my level.

Then, I catch sight of an adventurer party suddenly entering the guild. They look tense for some reason.

“Asha-san, is there something happening at the guild today?”

I ask Asha, who was passing by.

“Actually, there’s a large group of monsters near the village so today we’re putting together a subjugation party to exterminate them. I think all the guild members with the ability to will go.”

Isn’t that dangerous...? But even if I say so, it seems the members of this guild are unexpectedly outstanding somehow. I often receive monster meat from them.

By the time I could take a break from healing, the subjugation party had already departed.

“Well then, shall we have lunch too?”

Today we’re visiting the inn’s dining hall for the first time in a while. Unlike us amateurs, the cooking of a professional like Uncle is indeed a masterpiece.

Satisfied with a delicious lunch, we return to the guild but it was in disarray for some reason.

“Ah, Nest-san, so you guys were here!”

Asha-san approaches us with a somewhat flustered appearance.

“Er.. Did something happen?”

“Yes, well actually... the subjugation party came in contact with the swarm of monsters, but another group of monsters appeared on the other side of the town just now. It seems the subjugation party members are fighting the monsters and can’t return....”

“Eh..... Isn’t that bad!?”

“It is bad!! The guild master has been discussing with the party leaders, but it

looks like nothing can be done.... The subjugation party is doing their best but if they can't make it in time.....”

Asha-san said, with a gloomy face.

Thinking about it normally, the likelihood of the subjugation party making it on time is low. They left before we went to lunch but it hasn't even been two hours yet. Factor in the travel time and it'll be even more unlikely.

“It would be good if we could help, but we don't have any experience with monster subjugation..... I'm sorry.....”

Putting myself aside, I doubt Aura, Lily or Tré have fighting experience either. And we wouldn't want to voluntarily put ourselves in danger.

“I guess.. that's true....”

We left the guild, unable to endure the awkward atmosphere.

News of the monster swarms had already been transmitted to the masses and there were people packing their bags, people crying in front of their houses, all sorts of people.

The innkeepers who had looked after us were no exception.

“Nest, what will happen with us?”

Lily looked at me worriedly, but I couldn't answer. Aura and Tré were also looking downcast.

With that, she probably guessed the answer. Lily had tears in her eyes.

“I don’t want that! I mean, everyone is so nice here! And yet.. and yet.. I don’t want everyone to leave! Hey, Nest, can’t you do anything!?”

“....Sorry. I want to help but there’s nothing we can do.....”

We’re just ordinary citizens who can’t fight, so all we can do is flee. If we could detain them, I suppose that would be the best action.

No, wait.....? Detaining them would be the best.....? So we don’t have to defeat them....?

..... In that case, isn’t there something even I can do?

Of course the risk is large, but if it can help the townspeople then isn’t that enough to bet on?

“Hey, sorry! I just remembered something, go on ahead of me!”

I send Aura and the others back first and quickly start preparing. My first stop is the Weapons store.

I arranged for armour that was easy to move in, and of course I didn’t forget to get a cloak to hide my face.

With my preparations in order, I head out of town. The large black dot I see in the distance is likely the swarm of monsters.

“Maybe I shouldn’t have done this.....”

I unintentionally let out a complaint.

“But if this can help the town then I’ll be satisfied, I guess....”

Even if I said that, what’s scary is scary and I don’t want to do what I don’t want to do.

.....Nevertheless, I don’t want to see everyone in the town crying, and I don’t want to see Asha-san’s gloomy face. Aura and the others’ crying is something I want to see even less.

There are many things I don’t want to do but even so, [Regret] is the one thing I don’t want so I will [Fight].

The distance to the monsters was gradually decreasing. It looks like the monsters are Goblins. Goblins can be considered small-fries by themselves but as you’d expect, a number like this is a wonder.

In my line of sight was an army of Goblins.

And a noticeably larger Goblin King could be seen leading them.

There was no one standing behind me but everyone was behind me. I have things I must protect.

I take out my trusty knife. The knife I used to cut my own body tens, hundreds, thousands of times.

And today this knife will cut an enemy for the first time.

“Well then, let’s go.”

I run towards the Goblin army, alone.

Chapter 12: It looks like.... I did it

“Gugyaaaa”

Spread before my eyes was an army of goblins.

I plunged in crazily by myself, but it's not like I had no strategy.

I have my [Recovery Magic]. And it's extraordinary.

Even if I get injured, I can just heal myself.

I approach within reach of the goblins.

There, I experienced a strange sensation. My hand.. seemed to be moving on its own.

“Eh?”

When I look closely, my hand was thickly plastered in what appeared to be goblin blood. And behind me were the remains of a goblin that was split in half.

Somehow, it seems like.... I did it. But I don't have time to think about that right now. Thousands of goblins had their attacks aimed at me.

They tried to attack me but I've been cutting my arm since forever so these attacks were all of no concern to me.

“H-huh!? Goblins are this weak!?”

I simply heal myself when my injuries pile up and then cut down goblins again. I no longer pay attention to my hand moving by itself. I simply trace out the

bodies of the goblins nearby. The goblins die just from that.

“Heal.”

After many Heals, finally that appeared.

It clutched some kind of club in its gigantic hand.

“A Goblin King, huh....”

“GugyaaaaAAaaaaAAaa!!!”

The other goblins attack simultaneously when the Goblin King’s roars.

“!? You bastards!!”

I cut down the oncoming goblins with my knife.

And again, more goblins die.

Finally, all that’s left there is the Goblin King and me.

I don’t know whether I killed all the goblins or whether the surviving goblins fled, but now the town should be fine.

Nevertheless, how was I able to kill all the goblins?

I never experienced fighting monsters before, even back at the village. The only think I can think of is that it’s the result of my special recovery magic training.

Because I always mangled my body, I forgot the [sensation of pain].

Because I always mangled my body, I learnt [how to use a knife].

Because I always mangled my body, I learnt [how to kill living things].

Most likely, it's that sort of thing.

“Recovery magic is so useful. Heal.”

I heal the remaining bites and gashes on my body.

There's only one enemy left: the Goblin King.

It took me by surprise with agile movements that did not match its large frame and I received a blow. My body flew into the air from this attack that normal goblins could not compare to, and yet I still didn't register any pain.

I stand up while using Heal, and stare at the Goblin King.

“I feel bad for you guys, but I can't let you pass. And so, please die.”

“Haa.. It's good that I defeated them but how should I explain it?.”

I look towards the dead Goblin King lying on the ground and think about the subjugation party heading this way.

-----[Adventurer
POV]-----

When news of the monster outbreak came to be known, I joined the subjugation party as an adventurer.

Just the fact that I was among the adventurers boasts of my talent as it is.

Even the subjugation party entrusted me with the important frontline.

The monster subjugation was unexpectedly difficult. And yet an unthinkable announcement came from the rear.

“Emergency! Emergency!! Another group of monsters have appeared on the opposite side of town!! It looks to be on the same scale as this one!!”

What!? These circumstances were tough enough already and now there's the same thing happening on the opposite side!?

Nearly all of the skilled adventurers have come here. In other words, the town is practically defenceless.

“After we exterminate the army here, we'll go rescue them!!”

That was what the commander said but I don't see how we can make it in time.

We finished the extermination after a while so we head to the opposite side of town.

“Whoa, what kind of joke is this?”

When we arrived on the other side of town, the monsters were no longer there.

There was just a cloaked figure with a black hood. On the ground was what appeared to be a countless number of goblin corpses. When I looked closely, there was even the corpse of a Goblin King!

That indicated one thing. The army that took us tens of people to defeat was

wiped out by a single person.

Even I got goosebumps.

That fellow suddenly opened his mouth.

“I’m indebted to this town, so please treat this as returning a favour.”

He returned to the town, leaving behind this one line.

Everyone in the subjugation party were left unable to move.

Rumours about that became the talk of the town.

In the rumours, that fellow became known as-----

-----[Jet-black Saviour]-sama.

Chapter 13: If that was a lie....

“Hey Nest, wake up.”

“I-I’m tired today so I’m sleeping....”

I’m sorry for Aura who came to wake me, but I’m tired from yesterday’s matter so I want to sleep more.

“You can’t. We have work today, everyone in the subjugation party is waiting for you.”

“I’ll take a day off work.”

“I already said you can’t. Look, stop being so irresponsible and get up!!”

Aura takes away my blanket. With no other choice, I go to work today as well.

Yesterday I fought an army of goblins. I thought that detaining them was the best action I could take but in the end, the goblins were so weak that I annihilated (?) them all.

I had my face covered by the hood so I don’t think I’ve been exposed though.

However, there is something bothering me about what I’ve been hearing from the voices in the vicinity.

“Hey, did you hear!? The story about the one who annihilated the monster army single-handedly!”

“I know! The [Jet-black Saviour]-sama, right!”

Who’s that!? No, the [Jet-black Saviour]-sama is obviously me but..... even so,

it's so uncool!! What's with that [Jet-black Saviour] title !!

Whild groaning, I hear of someone's suspicions.

"Um.. That [Jet-black Saviour]-sama wouldn't happen to be Nest, would it?"

"Uuh...."

Come to think of it, I never told Aura and the others. I wanted to keep it a secret if possible....

"Eh, it might be Nest, really?"

"Hmm, I wonder. He did leave the town for a bit though."

"Sigh.. You don't have to hide it. It's not like anyone is criticising you...."

I decided that it wasn't good to continue hiding it from Aura and the others so I told them the story while removing some of the facts.

By 'some of the facts', I mean the part where I've been constantly cutting off my arms or legs. After coming to this town, I learnt that that was abnormal so I stopped doing it recently but I can still do it whenever I want.

But I can't let Aura and the others worry so I stayed silent about it.

Everyone promised to keep my secret, so it shouldn't be discovered.

There is one person I underestimated though. Who? Asha-san, of course.

Awaiting us at the guild wasn't the injured subjugation members, nor was it the housewives. It was a smiling Asha-san.

"Arnest-san, can I have a moment?"

Ah, she's totally angry. She's being all formal and calling me Arnest.

“Arnest-san, do you know why I called you?”

The reason Asha-san is calling me over should be because I went home without doing anything yesterday, huh.

“Err.. because I didn’t help the subjugation yesterday?”

“No? It has nothing to do with that.”

Asha-san refutes my words with a smile still on her face.

“Um.. then...”

What else did I do to be called out like this? It shouldn’t be that I went to assault the goblins alone yesterday..... eh, it shouldn’t be, right...?

“You don’t know? Then shall I tell you?”

This Asha-san has a smile fixed on her face. It’s seriously scary.

“Then I’ll get to the point, that [Jet-black Saviour]-sama is you, right?”

I-I was exposed!! H-how come!?

“N-no? I-Ith’s no’ me!?”

Ah, I bit my tongue again. This feels like déjà vu.

“Really, is that so? I’ll believe you then but if that was a lie..... You understand the consequences, right? (smile)”

“I-I’m sorry!! It was a lie! It was me!!”

“Good. Ah, I just wanted to make sure. You don’t have to worry about it, okay?”

A-Asha-san is too scary....

Let’s not make her angry..... I’ll take this to heart.

“B-but how did you know it was me?”

“I know that much. Because in this town, the only one at that level is Nest.”

“Eh, but I’ve never fought monsters before though?”

“When I watched you cut off your hand last time, I had thought you were very good with a knife.”

S-so she thought such a thing. That’s incredible, Asha-san.... Even though I didn’t notice it at all...

“I know that Nest-san is strong but don’t be too reckless! Because even I will get worried....”

“Ah, yes. I’m sorry.”

“Jeez. Do you really understand??”

She glares at me with upturned eyes. I was surprised by Asha-san’s unusual

actions.

“S-so even Asha makes that kind of face. Honestly, it’s unexpected but it’s cute, you know?”

I only realised that I was saying something embarrassing halfway through but I couldn’t leave my sentence unfinished! Or so I had thought, but I was so overcome by embarrassment that I ended up turning the last part into a question.

“W-what are you saying!? Please don’t say such strange things!!”

Leaving behind those words, Asha-san ran away. I really can’t match up to her, huh.....

I forgot to mention but the medical treatment for the subjugation party kept me so busy that I thought I’d die.

Chapter 14: You're really saying that!?

After finally managing to finish healing the subjugation members, we were drinking tea at the guild table.

“T-today there were a lot....”

Aura sounded completely exhausted, as if she was covered in wounds.

Tré also looked very pained after casting so many recovery spells and draining her mana.

Lily had reached her limit midway so she was now sleeping on my lap.

That isn't to say I wasn't tired. I had plenty of mana but continually using recovery magic all day is somehow... you know?

“Then shall we go home soon?”

Everyone was still exhausted but it's not like we can stay here indefinitely.

Lily didn't end up waking up so I piggybacked her home.

“Lolicon”

“Wai-You're really saying that!?”

“So Master is a lolicon.....?”

“No Tré, that's wrong, okay? I'm not a lolicon, okay?”

The next day, the rumour that I was a lolicon flowed into the guild.

Hey, even though I healed you guys yesterday!!

I was ignored by Asha-san all day....

-----[Armoured dude
POV]-----

“So I should gather some outstanding healers, is that correct?”

“Yeah. I’m counting on you.”

I was in a hurry. My mind didn’t work well in a race against time.

Nevertheless, I still had a lot of things I need to do.

I stood up from my seat.

-----[Arnest
POV]-----

I somehow managed to suppress the suspicions of me being a lolicon and I relaxed at home the next day.

Today is the regular day off work. Thinking of sleeping until noon and then going out to play somewhere, I fell asleep once again.

It’s now afternoon, and I am strolling about in town by myself for once.

The people in this town are as good-natured as usual and they wave when they see me.

Seeing them waving happily, I feel glad I killed the goblins back then.

“Would you happen to be the recovery magic user, Arnest-sama?”

Surprised by the sudden voice, I turn around while wondering who it is. Standing behind me were several people covered in full-body armour.

“Y-yeah. I’m Arnest but... can I help you with something?”

Naturally, this guy wasn’t one of my acquaintances. Despite this, he seemed to know of me.

“By order of the king, we have come from the capital to retrieve you!! It’s a very urgent matter so please come with us.”

With that said, I found myself being escorted away by two armoured men.

“Eh, right now!? Wai.. give me a moment first!!”

If I don’t say something to Aura and the others first, there’s no telling what will happen, especially to me.

“I’m sorry but this is a race against time.”

Whoa, are you serious.... I’m gonna get lectured when I get back.....

“Huh, Nest-san?”

Passing by us unexpectedly was the inn’s postergirl-chan.

“Ah, perfect timing! If you see Aura and the others, please tell them I’ve been

summoned to the capital by the king and that they don't have to worry about me!!”

Leaving behind those words, I was taken away by those armoured bastards.

-----[Aura
POV]-----

Currently we were having a discussion about what to do from here on.

Apparently Nest was taken away to the capital when we weren't aware.

“Jeez, what is Nest doing....”

I unintentionally let out a sigh.

Even the ever-smiling Lily had a gloomy expression after hearing the situation.

“Is Nest.. alright?”

“I think he should be fine. I heard it was an order from the King.”

But even if I believe he's alright, I can't help but think that there's a chance of something bad happening.

“Yup, it's useless to think any more! We're going to the capital too!!”

“Yeah!!”

With that decided, there's nothing more to discuss. We've saved up money from our work every day so we should have enough.

All that's left is how we will get there, but.....

"Asha-san. Do you know any good means to get to the capital?"

We decided to ask Asha-san in the guild.

"Ah, could this be about Nest? I would like to go too, but I can't leave my work..... As for traveling measures, it should be fine to ask a peddler. Luckily, Tré-san can use Recovery Magic so they should easily give you a ride."

"Well then, please treat us well."

We greet the peddler who will be giving us a ride to the capital and board the wagon.

Everything is so we can meet Nest.

Chapter 15: This person is the King!

.....I am at the capital.

On my left is an armoured bastard, on my right is an armoured bastard, and behind me is another armoured bastard.

“So annoying!!”

“Um... I’m sorry but please be patient. Since it’s the king’s decree....”

One of the armoured bastards lowers his head apologetically when he heard my shout.

“Speaking of which, why have I been called?”

“No, the king told us to find outstanding users of recovery magic and your name was mentioned when we asked around town.”

So the townspeople were to blame!!

“Even the receptionist at the guild had high praises for you.”

Asha-saannnn!!?

My shoulders slump after being betrayed by someone unexpected.

“And thus we brought you here. I’m sorry it was so abrupt....”

“N-no.. I-it’s alright...”

“Is that so! Then.. there’s something the king has to say so let’s head there

now.”

“Waaiittt a momeeenttt!!!”

Did I just hear him say the king!?

“Whoa! Wh-what’s the matter?’

“Don’t just ask what’s the matter!!! Why are we going to the king’s place now!? I’m not prepared at all!?”

The armoured bastard said it in an extremely natural manner but for a commoner like me to suddenly meet the king it’s too intense!

“If you’re that vigorous then it’s fine.”

The armoured bastard grins (so it seems).

“No, how is it alright!? Please explain it! Hey!?”

My protest was in vain and in the end we reached a large door.

The king is definitely in there.... Because these scary looking people are lined up at the door!!

『Please enter』

A voice resounded from within the doors and the surrounding people reacted by opening the large door.

Inside was several common looking fellows like me and further inside I caught a glance of.. this person is the king! I could easily see that.

It looks like I wasn't the only one summoned, and everyone in the room is here for the same reason.

"The one who called you guys here was me. I'm sorry for not giving you any warning but it's a race against time so...."

The king explains to us.

Simply put, it was something along the lines of [his wife and daughter contracted a mysterious disease so he found people who might be able to heal them].

At that point, I suddenly asked a question I was thinking about.

"Um.. Your Majesty. I understand why we were brought here but wouldn't someone like the Saint have a higher chance of curing them?"

Generally, the Saint is the one considered the most outstanding in terms of recovery magic. Despite this, the Saint is nowhere to be seen.

The king grimaced, and I wondered if my question was too discourteous.

"Actually.... the Saint is my daughter."

"""Pardon?"""

Including me, everyone in the group was dumbfounded at this sudden bombshell.

"Eh, but you just said your daughter caught a strange disease....?"

“That’s right. To be honest, the one who contracted the disease was my wife and my daughter tried to heal her but she ended up being infected instead.”

Everyone froze at these words. In other words, this was a disease that even the top healer failed to cure.

It’s not likely that some slightly-outstanding healers would cure this disease.

“I know that I’m asking the unreasonable..... Therefore, I won’t mind you withdrawing if you think it’s impossible....”

No one could move when they first heard the king’s words but after the first person left, everyone else continued to leave one after another.

If it was me, I might be able to heal them..... Except I have no proof, and no impetus to try it.

By the time I realised, there was no one else left in the room apart from the king and me. Even the guards read the awkward atmosphere and left the room.

I asked the king one final question.

“Your Majesty, if there was someone who succeeded in healing those two..... what would you do?”

The king probably thought that everyone had left the room, he showed signs of astonishment when he noticed me.

“Ah, right. If there was someone with such wondrous skill that he could cure what my daughter couldn’t, then I’d marry my daughter off to them. Of course, I would have to respect their own feelings though.....”

“I-Is that so....”

For a moment, I almost said “I will do it!!” but I don’t think I would make a good partner for such a divine beauty like the Saint.

In that case, letting my recovery magic be known would just be a disadvantage for me.

“As expected, I don’t think I can do it. I’ll be taking my leave now.”

I feel bad for the king but I still value my position. I’m not so good as to endanger myself for a stranger.

Right, the one to do that isn’t me.

If there was someone who could do it, that would be.....

The [Jet-black Saviour]-sama.

Chapter 16: M-my hand is reacting!?

After leaving the castle, I first headed out of the capital.

I walk for a while outside the capital and then check to make sure no one is around.

Since the matter with the goblins, I haven't had a proper chance to test out my new skills.

Even if I'm going to sneak into the castle later, I have to make sure of my own strengths to some degree.

My first test was [supposing that that is the result of my special training in recovery magic, can I really use it?].

A number of monsters were living in the outskirts of the capital. Right at that moment, a small group of goblins appeared. They appeared to be transporting something and stopped when they noticed me.

Confronting these goblins, I prepared my trusty knife.

..... Little by little, the feeling of my arm moving by itself appeared, just like last time.

In that instant, a goblin came charging at me and I separated its arm from its body with my knife.

Thinking that this response could be due to the fact that goblins had a humanoid figure, I found other monsters to test it on but I was able to cut off their limbs as well.

Like this, I understood that the answer to my first question was [I can use it].

Next is testing [whether that sensation will respond to non-living things].

I picked up a relatively large rock and threw it overhead.

.....Thunk.

The rock fell but that [reaction] didn't appear at all.

The result: it didn't react to [non-living] things.

After that was [can I use something other than a knife?].

I first tried wielding a sword dropped by the goblin I killed. I fought a number of monsters and discovered that I can use it somehow, but using my knife is easier.

Then, I tried using a tree branch that fell. I stare at the goblin in front, thinking that it was probably impossible without a blade of some sort.

....Huh? M-my hand is reacting!?

Being oblivious to this, the goblin charged at me like the goblin from before.

.....My hand moves on its own.

I had thought there was no way a tree branch could defeat them, but behind me were its severed limbs and the dead goblin collapsed onto the ground.

As one would expect, even I was surprised. A tree branch with no blade was able to do this sort of thing.

I attempted it several times after that but the results were the same, I could cut off the limbs of goblins and other monsters with just a tree branch.

Even I had no idea how that came to be, but I'm honestly very pleased that I can fight with a tree branch if the time comes to that.

Afterwards, I went a little overboard and did in all the monsters.....

What I concluded from these experiments was that I could certainly use other weapons but my knife was the easiest to use, and I can fight with a tree branch in the worst situation.

The final test was [the extent of pain I feel].

Although I had only been moving my [hand] when fighting the monsters just now, my body wasn't at that level and I occasionally received a few attacks.

I didn't feel any pain then but I'm experimenting with it just to make sure.

Just like in the past, I started with my finger but I only felt a little itch.

Next, I cut off my arm – this was also done in the past – and because it only itched a little, I also cut off my leg. It was the same as well.

Cutting my head or neck would indeed be scary so I left that alone but I cut everything else with no exception and still only felt itching.

As a result, I understood that everything else was fine, but the head and neck were unknown.

With this, I had finished all my tests for the time being so I cleaned up while healing myself and returned to the district.

I didn't know what to do with the monsters' corpses though.....

Chapter 17: How about cross-dressing....?

I left the monster corpses as they were and headed back to the capital, but there was some kind of dispute at the gates.

“Why won’t you let us in!?”

“Even if you say that... I can’t admit a slave whose master isn’t present because it’s the rules..... I could allow you entrance if it was only the blue-haired girl but.....”

“Nes-our master is inside the capital! Besides, I can’t let this child search for him on her own!!”

“Although you’re saying that... “

The one arguing was a red-haired girl and she had brought along a brunette and a girl with blue hair.

I feel like I’ve seen that combination somewhere before, but I call out to the gatekeeper so I can enter.

“Err... Can I go in....?”

“Ah!! Yes, go ahead.”

I had spoken to the man when I was leaving, so he let me in without any problems.

“N-nest!?”

Then, for some reason, the red-haired girl called my name.

“Certainly I’m called Nest, but who.. are.....”

I was about to ask who she was, but the girl I just passed was someone I already knew.

“Eh, what...? Aura?”

“That’s right!!”

In that case, the other two should be Lily and Tré.

“Huh, why are you guys here?”

As far as it goes, I had left them a message telling them not to worry before I left.

“.....were worried....”

“Eh, what did you say?”

Aura mumbled something but I couldn’t hear it clearly.

“N-never mind, you idiot Nest!!”

She yelled at me for some reason but people started looking at us so I decided to head back to the inn first.

“Ah, Mister. I’m the owner of these slaves so they’re allowed to enter now, right?”

Saying that, I show him the verification given to me by the slave merchant. The gatekeeper confirmed the verification and granted us passage.

We returned to the inn and I heard the details from Aura and the others.

It seems they were given a lift on a peddlers wagon but were stopped at the gates, and that’s when I came along.

“Seriously, you were suddenly taken away so we were worried. Lily and Tré were at least.”

“And you weren’t!?”

“Huh? But Aura-oneechan also had an extremely panicked fa-Mmph!!”

Aura covered Lily’s mouth before she could finish her sentence.

“Lily? You don’t have to mention that, okay?”

“K-kay.”

Lily was lead to a corner of the room.

“Speaking of which, why was Nest called to the capital...?”

Tré inquired while Aura and Lily were occupied.

“Er.. It seems that the king’s daughter and wife fell ill and he was looking for someone to heal them.”

“So Master healed them, right...?”

“N-no? I thought that it would cause a lot of trouble in the future if I did, you see?”

“Eh, you’re not going to heal them....?”

Tré had looked at me with a gaze full of reverence, but it changed as if she received some kind of shock.

“N-no, I am going to heal them! It’s just that it would be bad if I exposed myself so I was planning to sneak in tonight.”

“A-as expected of Master...!”

Tré appeared to be deeply touched, but Aura and Lily returned at that point. It seemed like they had been listening to our conversation.

“But how are you going to sneak in? It’s the King’s castle so there should be a lot of guards....”

“Th-that’s true..... But couldn’t I just force my way through while using Heal?”

I thought I could do it that way but does that seem a little excessive?

“I think that would be difficult. I don’t know how this castle is, but there were quite a lot of people with guards following them back at my castle.”

“S-seriously? Maybe I should just give up on healing them then.”

“Ehh.....”

Tré looked at me with a hopeful gaze as if asking ‘that’s a lie, right...?’, but it

would come to nothing if I was caught when healing them.

“If I could at least make it into the castle then it might be feasible, but....”

“If you’re wondering how to deal with the door guards then how about using sleeping drugs?”

“But even if sleeping drugs were okay, how would I get the guards to take them without arousing suspicion?”

While brainstorming methods to deal with the door guards together with Aura, Tré spoke up timidly.

“M-master, I.. I’m good with cosmetics so how about cross-dressing.....?”

Tré unexpectedly proposed an idea, but that sounded a little difficult.

“Um.. Tré? As expected, that’s a littl- “That’s it!!” Eh?”

“Nest can just disguise himself as a girl and seduce them! I’ll lend you the clothing so use that to penetrate the castle!!”

“N-no wait, I’ll be quickly exposed if I wear female clothing as a guy!”

But in the end, my resistance was futile and I was forced into cross-dressing.

And after dozens of minutes, I was adorned with cat ears and paws. Viewed from the vicinity, I totally looked like a cat-girl.

The cat ears had been bought by Lily for some reason.

-----[King

POV]-----

In my hand right now was a report from the garrison in the outskirts of the capital.

[A large number of dismembered monsters were discovered in the outskirts of the royal capital.... There were no traces of them being dismantled so it's believed that a terrifyingly brutal monster has materialised outside the royal capital. We would like the palace guards and knights to form a collaboration and stay vigilant. Furthermore, there have been reports of a fiend with long, dishevelled hair who wields a mysterious cylindrical bladed weapon? (A sharp scythe?) We have temporarily named this individual <Tosatsu Majo> (Witch of Slaughter).]

Even though I'm already preoccupied with my wife and daughter, work continues to pile up for me as the king.

"Witch of Slaughter..... What a good name....."

I decide to give a small reward to the guard who wrote this report.

Chapter 18: Might you be a little tired?

.....When the sun set and the sky begun to darken, I came to the front of the castle once again.

Naturally, there were two guards remaining at the entrance.

I'm going to infiltrate the castle now but I need to make them lose vigilance.

I turned on all my charm and approach the guards.

"Hey nyaa~ Misters, might you be a little tired?"

———While I was cross-dressing.

In the end, I had make-up put on by Tré and for clothes, Aura said "my clothes aren't sexy enough...." so we bought clothes with sex appeal (?).

The two gatekeepers were put in a good mood by me and relaxed their guard.

"Oh, a cute young lady came."

"No, no, I'm not that cute...."

'Cuteness increases just by being modest!' is what Aura said, and I follow her advice.

"Rather than that, would you like some tea? To be honest, I made some excellent tea today, and I wanted to drink it with you misters.... Is that no good?"

Apparently the so-called 'upturned eyes' is important when saying this. Not only this, it was necessary for me to drink as well, so they wouldn't suspect me.

Certainly, it would be surprising if someone suddenly offered you tea.

"N-no! Of course we'll have some!!"

I prepare tea for myself and the two guards, and first drink myself.

Naturally, it was drugged with sleeping medicine but I whispered a quiet 'Heal' and succeeded in ridding myself of the drowsiness.

Seeing me drink, the guards also consumed the tea.

"I.. suddenly feel... sleepy...."

"Oh.. Me too...."

The sleeping drugs showed their effects and the two guards soon fell asleep.

Succeeding with the first plan, I infiltrate the castle and confirm the lack of guards, then change into the guise of the [Jet-Black Saviour].

But while searching for the Princess's room, I realised that I didn't know where the room was.

"Hey! Are you guys alright!? What happened!?"

At that moment, I heard a loud voice originating from the gatekeepers' location. This is bad.... I never thought they would notice so early!

I panic and run away. I heard the sound of footsteps behind me but I ignored them and continued running.

I looked for the aforementioned room while running, but I couldn't find it at all.

In the midst of that, I was finally caught in a pincer attack.

"You rebel! You have quite the nerve to sneak inside the castle, but that ends here! Receive our judgement!!"

While this was said, several guards sprung at me, but here I displayed the results of my experiment.

I nimbly retrieve my knife and chop off the arms of the people leaping at me, then flee once again.

".....Eh?Uwaaaaahhhhhhhh. My armmmm!"

"Heal!!"

I run while facing the guys rolling in pain and heal them.

They appeared to be dumbfounded when their cut off arms started regrowing but I didn't have the time to care about that. I just continue running and focus on finding the rooms.

I must have been too absorbed in running that I ended up in an area without any illumination from the castle lamps.

It was bare except for a slightly old-looking door.

The Saint wouldn't be here... or so I thought, but when I turned around to continue looking, I thought I heard some kind of noise from within the room.

That noise bothered me no matter what, so I opened the door.

” ..!!??”

In that instant, the person inside sliced off a part of my arm with a sword. It didn't really hurt but I was certainly surprised.

“I won't yield to you, whoever you may be.”

That girl was an extremely beautiful girl, with a voice I seem to have heard before-----

-----[Tré
POV]-----

“Master, take care....”

“Yeah!”

Just a moment ago, we took possession of the drugged tea and saw Master off at the entrance.

Even though he will get caught if he fails, Master is going to save the princess. Master really is an amazing person.

He's also a kind Master to us slaves.

After he returns, Master might reward me for proposing the cross-dressing idea. Then this time I will definitely have Master wash me in the baths.

“Hey, Aura-oneechan, Tré..”

Lily called out, but she didn't really help much this time so she might be

thinking of something.

“What....?”

“You know? Master didn’t really have to cross-dress, couldn’t one of us have gone instead?”

““Ah!””

.....It looks like the reward this time might have to wait.

Chapter 19: Please don't come any closer....

“I won’t yield to you, whoever you may be.”

The beauty saying that looked pale, and was barely standing. She collapsed as she finished saying it.

“Hey, are you alright!?”

“Please don’t come any closer....”

But to abandon her now would leave a bad aftertaste. Being in a nook of the castle means she’s probably a servant who wouldn’t be able to pay for medical treatment, huh.

“.....Let’s see.. Heal.”

The fact that we met means we probably have some affinity so I cast recovery magic on the girl.

“.....Eh?”

Her complexion slowly improves and her health seems to have returned as the beauty quietly stands up.

“Y-you.. Did you do this.....?”

“Hm? I was the one who healed you but.... Ah, I don’t need any payment, okay?”

It'll be dangerous if I stay here too long and the guards come, so I should take my leave soon.

"Th-then, I'll be going now...."

"P-please wait!! Um.. If it's possible, can you heal my mother as well....?"

It seems both parent and child contracted the disease and the mother was currently sleeping in a bed inside.

"Heal."

I was lead to where her mother was residing and cast another recovery spell. Her complexion improved and her ragged breathing also evened out.

"U-um! Take this...."

When I decided to leave for sure, the beauty handed me some kind of object. Looking at it closely, it seemed she gave me one of the earrings she was wearing.

"This is....?"

"Yes, this is something that's been passed down in our family for generations. I'm giving it to you because I hope we'll meet again. If it can act as payment for the treatment...."

"I see.. In that case, I should accept it. Then I really will be going now."

At any rate, this is a beautiful earring. Why would a servant be holding this, I wonder....

I exit the room and search for the Saint's room once again. However, I didn't end up finding it no matter how much I searched and the guards gradually increased so with no other choice, I decided to return to the inn.

"Sigh, I went so far as to cross-dress and sneak in but only managed to heal two servants in the end...."

With heavy footsteps, I returned to the inn.

Chapter 20: I'll start the treatment now

“Good morning, Father.”

As the Saint, and as the Princess, I came before my own father, the King.

I already know what the matter is. It is about curing the Queen, my mother, who has contracted a mysterious disease.

“Good morning, Luna. Needless to say, I called you here today to talk about my wife. I want to ask you to heal her as the Saint, is that alright?”

“.....I don’t know if I can cure her but I will try.”

Father nods at my agreement and with the words “then I’ll leave it to you”, he returns to work.

“Mother, I’m coming in now.”

I called out from outside the room, but there was no reply so I just went in.

Mother was asleep on the bed but she didn’t appear to be sleeping very peacefully.

I remove her clothes and look for symptoms of the disease.

There were several dark patches on her back and there were several of the same dark patches on her arm as well. It looks like those are the symptoms of this disease.

“Well then, Mother, I’ll start the treatment now.”

In terms of recovery magic, the most well-known spell was [Heal], but that wasn't all recovery magic entailed.

Firstly, if this disease contained some sort of poison, I would need to use [Poison Heal] instead of [Heal].

And there would be times when I would need to cast [Refresh] for when the illness caused fatigue.

However, I cast [Poison Heal] and [Refresh] on Mother many, many times but the patches on her arm and back showed no sign of disappearing at all.

When I let the king know the treatment failed, he completely stopped work for the day to grieve and moan.

“.....I’m sorry, Father. My power just wasn’t enough.”

I couldn’t live up to my mother and father because of my own powerlessness.....

When I woke up in my room the next day, my whole body felt sluggish.

.....Perhaps I overexerted my magic during yesterday’s treatment.

While thinking that, I started changing into my habit in front of my mirror, because I couldn’t neglect my work as the Saint.

Suddenly, I noticed something black on my arm.

It can’t be.... I look at my arm and saw small black patches just like the Queen had.

From then on, I understood that this disease was contagious.

Certainly, it would have been better if I had considered that yesterday but because it was my own mother, I had deemed it a serious matter and forgot all

about that.

I immediately head to the king's room. Fortunately it was early in the morning and there were no guards in front of the king's room.

“Father, I’m sorry for coming so early but are you awake?”

“.....Yeah, I’m awake.”

Still affected by yesterday’s matter, Father’s voice didn’t have his usual sense of aspiration.

“Please, just let me talk here.”

I cannot afford to infect my father, the king, so I ask for permission to speak through the door.

“Actually, it’s about Mother’s disease that I tried to treat yesterday. It appears to be a contagious type and I’ve now been infected as well.....”

“What!?”

“Please don’t open the door!!”

Surprised, Father tried to open the door and I had to coerce him into stopping.

“I apologise but this disease doesn’t seem like something I can cure. And it appears that this disease is contagious so Mother and I will migrate to a room at one end of the castle. And after we separate, please immediately order a quarantine.”

“....U-understood. I’ll do as you say....”

Hearing that, I returned to my room, prepared a minimal amount of necessities and head towards the assigned room.

I had Mother moved under strict management.

A few days passed after that. Meals were delivered before the room three times a day but now I had difficulty even going to pick it up. Not getting enough food, my face also seemed to become thinner.

.....Although I went to the trouble of learning recovery magic, I wonder if I will end up dying without even saving my mother.....

Unable to stop the falling tears, I wept into my pillow for a long time.

.....When I awakened unintentionally, there seemed to be some kind of disturbance outside the room.

It wasn't the usual sound of our meals being delivered and when I strained my ears to listen to the faint voices of the guards, I discovered that a rebel had infiltrated the castle.

.....From the sound I heard outside the room just now, it's likely that the rebel is on the other side of the door.

Dragging my heavy body forward, I pick up the sword that was left in the room for some reason.

.....The door opened—

I raise the sword in my hand towards the arm poking out from the opening of the door and swing it down vigorously.

Chapter 21: You gave it away....?

Dropping the sword, I realised for the first time that there was a possibility that it wasn't an enemy.

I lowered my arm at once, taking care not to inflict another serious injury. But that was only for an instant, as the one entering the room was clearly the rebel.

If it was going to be like this, I should have continued swinging as it was.....

But when I tried to act again, my stamina ran out and I collapsed onto the floor.

And then the one I thought was an enemy proceeded to cure my mother and I.

After that, I faced this man whose healing was superior to mine and praying that I will be able to see him again some day, I gifted him with one of my earrings.

Mother woke up a short while later. Just in case, we examined our bodies for the dark patches, but they were nowhere to be found on either of us.

“Oh my, what happened to your earring?”

Noticing that I wasn't wearing one of my earrings, my mother asks for the reason.

“Actually.....”

I told her of the previous events and how I gave away the earring so we could

meet again.

“You gave away the earring.....?”

“Yes, I did but.....was it bad.....?”

“....That is something someone from the royal line confers when they wish for another meeting, so you’re not exactly wrong.....”

But the Queen’s expression bewildered me.

“.....To put it simply, that earring is something you give to your future spouse. I also received it from your father.”

“!!”

I purely wished to meet again and didn’t have such ulterior motives when I gave it away but it looks like I may have done something foolish.

When I think about his reaction when he finds out.....

Overwhelmed with embarrassment, I completely forgot to report to Father and just continued to wrap myself in my futon.

-----[Arnest
POV]-----

..... I head back to the inn on my own.

“Sigh.....”

I breathe out a sigh. Despite going to heal the princess, I only managed to

cure two servants in the end.

“Sigh.....”

I sigh once more. I’ll probably be wanted now, and I wasn’t even able to heal the princess. And tomorrow there might be a request at the guild: [seeking information!].

While walking alone in the dark, I flick the earring attached to my ear.

“Huh!? You went to the castle but couldn’t treat them!?”

“.....Yes.”

Sure enough, I was scolded by Aura.

When I returned to the inn, her face looked relieved like she had been worrying. However, after I said that I failed in treating them, I was immediately made to sit in seiza.

“.....So? Why couldn’t you treat them?”

“Err... There were more guards than expected, and I looked for the room but.....”

“We already knew that from the start!!”

“Yes.....”

“Well, it’s good that you returned safely....”

After being released from the short lecture, I washed my body and lay on the bed.

As one would expect of the capital, the room was very spacious. There were

even two beds, so the others slept on the second bed.

When everyone was falling asleep, I felt like something entered my bed but I was too drowsy that I ignored it and continued to sleep.

.....It's hot. Forcing my eyes open, I peek inside the futon.

Inside was Lily, who was hugging me as she slept..... As a little girl, she had a modest chest so someone with no experience with women was also able to endure it.

It was hard to see in the dark but it seemed like she had been crying as my clothes were damp. I would certainly refuse if it was drool or something but I'm hoping that as a maiden, she wouldn't be drooling in her sleep.

“.....Lily.”

I tried to shake her away but instead it felt like she just hugged me tighter.

Let's just leave her as she is.....

With hazy consciousness, I gently pet the head in front of me and return to sleep.

Chapter 22: Thank you very much!!

“.....t, ...st!”

.....Who is it..? I was sleeping so soundly.....

With the events from yesterday, even if I’m not that bad with mornings normally, it was hard for me today.

“Nest, wake up!”

“.....mn. So it’s Aura. I still want to sleep.....”

“It’s not the time for that!! Lily has gone miss..ing.....”

Seeing me still sleeping, Aura snatched my blanket away.

“.....Hey? Why would Lily be in Nest’s bed, I wonder?”

Her voice was chilly. In that instant, my sleepiness was blown away and was instead replaced by cold sweat flowing down my back.

“Aura..san.....?”

I timidly look at the bed and see Lily sleeping. And furthermore, she was clinging to me.

Thinking back to last night, I certainly did feel like Lily had crawled into my bed.....

“.....Th-this LOLICOOONNNNN!!!”

“I-I’m sorrrryyyyy!!!”

Luckily, Lily was still clinging to me so I passed through that situation unharmed.

Lily, thank you very much!!

.....Well, this was also all Lily’s fault though.

We were in the middle of sightseeing in the capital. Since we were already here, we followed Lily’s idea of playing around a little and were thus walking around aimlessly.

On my cheek was a bright red handprint. Needless to say, it was Aura’s doing.

While I was feeling relieved about not being hit, Lily woke up and separated from me. Then I was suddenly hit.

“Jeez, don’t you know how to hold back?”

“It was my bad, okay? But you two suddenly sleeping together really surprised me.”

“Hmm.. So it was that sort of thing?”

We were strolling around the capital while chatting nonchalantly. As one would expect of the capital, it was more crowded than the town. There were plenty of street stands and the inn was also spacious.

“Lily, Tré, is there anything you guys want to eat.... They’re not here!?”

“Eh, no way!?”

Looking back over my shoulder, I notice that Tré and Lily were gone.

“But well, it should be fine since Tré is there. They should be returning to the inn when it gets late anyway.”

If Lily was on her own, we’d immediately turn around and look for her but fortunately, Tré was smart and carried some money on her.

“Then let’s just go around with just us two.”

“.....kay.”

It seemed like Aura’s face turned slightly red, but I can just use my recovery magic if she gets a fever.

Aura and I had fun touring around the capital while partly searching for Lily and Tré.

It was soon midday and I felt it was a good time so we decided to have lunch.

“.....Come to think of it, I never asked before but how did you end up becoming a slave?”

It’s already been quite some time since Aura and the others became a slave but I still haven’t heard the details.

With it suddenly on my mind, I boldly decide to ask as we waited for the food we ordered.

.....There was a short period of silence, and then Aura started to speak.

“The reason I became a slave was——”

Chapter 23: As much as possible in the [Present]

In a certain country, a cute little girl was born. She was called [Aura] and had the fortune to be born to royalty.

Her life had no particular hardships, and she spent her days enjoyably.

She was blessed in the pursuit of knowledge and started learning about politics when she was 10 years of age.

The nation adored her and she grew up contentedly.

However, that all changed when a man appeared one day.....

The man registered at the Adventurers' Guild and quickly rose through the ranks.

He greatly contributed to the town when monsters assaulted, and had even been summoned to the imperial castle.

Amidst a large number of violent adventurers, he earned the trust of the town with his agreeable personality and instantly became popular.

.....Then one day, a group of monsters assaulted the town once again.

Numerous adventurers attempted to suppress them. Naturally, he was no exception and also joined the subjugation unit. Incidentally, the number of adventurers was insufficient and the castle also sent guards to participate.

Within the castle were the members of the royal family which included Aura, as well as the leaders of the nation, with several people left to guard them.

While the King was awaiting information from the troops, an armoured guard turned up.

“So..... How is the subjugation unit?”

Removing his helmet, the one who reported about the subjugation was——

“The subjugation unit was.....

.....totally annihilated.”

——that man, with a devilish smile on his face.

In the instant following that, the King’s head suddenly went flying. He had unsheathed his sword with an unbelievable speed and massacred the surrounding leaders. The floor was dyed with blood, and his body was also stained red from the spurting blood of his victims.

“N-no.....”

With no way to fight, Aura was also cut down by his sword.

“This is only the first.....”

Her body collapsed onto the floor and she watched as he left, muttering with a smile on his face.

Am.. I going to die here.....?

Her blood continued to flow out from the wound he inflicted. Aura was unable to stop the flow and just continued to cry.

The last thing she saw before she lost consciousness was the approaching figure of a person.

-----[Arnest

POV]-----

“.....And when I woke up, my wounds had disappeared somehow. Everyone was killed there and only I survived. I think I was saved by that person I saw just before I passed out. But I never heard of any recovery magic like that so I searched for them and was caught..... And then you came, while I was living as a slave. I met Lily when I was first caught as a slave.”

Aura finished retelling her past but I couldn't find any words to say to her and could only mutter the words “I see.....”

“Well, that's all in the past! It's no use caring about it now!! Look, our food has come out!”

“Ah, okay.....”

Aura said it's fine not to worry about it but I wonder if she really feels that way.....

I don't really understand girls' feelings. However, I wonder whether there's anything I can do now.....

I watch Aura eat the food happily and wonder if there is anything I can do for her....

The food looked delicious but I couldn't really taste it. I simply ate while deep

in thought.

If there's something I can do for Aura-----

-----It's letting her have as much [fun] as possible in the [Present].

"What's this!? It's super delicious!!"

"Right? I thought it would be delicious ever since I saw it on the menu."

"Yeah, it really is delicious. As expected of Aura!"

I made it seem as though I thought the tasteless food was very delicious.

Chapter 24: I AM.. LOLICON

Finished with our lunch, we leave the restaurant.

The unpleasant atmosphere from before faded and we resumed our sightseeing once again.

.....Nothing particular happened and we just conversed as usual.

“Ah! You’re finally back!!”

“Oh, Lily.”

When we arrived back at the inn, it seemed Lily and Tré had already returned. When I opened the door, Lily came flying at me.

“Jeez! To think the two adults would both get lost!!

“Ahahahaha.....”

No matter how I think about it, Lily is the one who got lost. I almost said these immature words, but I’ll endure. I apologise with a strained laugh.

“I’m sorry master, Lily dragged me away.....”

“No, it’s fine. Aura and I were able to talk about a lot of things.”

“.....”

Tré looked downcast at my words.

.....Huh? Did I say something bad?

“.....Master.”

“Y-yes? What’s the matter?”

“.....You slept with Lily last night and today you spent the day together with Aura, right...?”

“That’s right?”

Uh-oh, I have a bad feeling about this—

“Then next should be my turn.....?”

Tré looks at me with anticipation.

“.....Yeah.. It’s Tré’s turn.”

Tré may be smart, but she’s still a child and should also have times when she wants to be spoiled by an adult. I was a little worried but Tré shouldn’t be that bad.....

“Err... Then what do you want to do?”

“Bath.”

Tré answers with no hesitation.

“.....eh, what?”

I must have heard wrong. I’ve been tired out from all the trouble today, I’m sure... Yeah.

“I want to enter the bath together. Besides, this is the third time I’ve asked.....”

Of course, I haven’t heard those words before, but I can’t really turn her down now.

Huh? I feel like this has happened before.....

“Then let’s go, Master.”

She dragged me to the dressing room.

The inn was spacious so naturally the baths were huge as well, but I never thought that would backfire on me now....!!

.....Wait, I did sleep with Lily today so maybe I can do it!?

While I was pondering, Tré finished removing her clothes and headed into the bathroom.

“!!!”

I saw Tré’s hair and back. But my gaze didn’t just stop there.....

I saw two mounds—

STOP, IT’S FINE. I AM.. NOT A LOLICON. CALM DOWN, I CAN DO IT IF I TRY!

Stripping off my clothes, I slowly make my way to the bathroom where Tré was waiting.

“Tré, I’m coming in~”

I wore a towel around my waist of course, but Tré didn’t care about that as a child and didn’t have anything to cover her body. I approach Tré while trying my hardest not to look.

“Master, please wash until the end today, okay?”

“.....Kay.”

Tré hands me a towel which I wet, then lather with soap.

That’s right, I can just cover Tré’s body in bubbles!!

With that decided, all that’s left is to do my best to create bubbles. Tré stood there waiting, wondering when I would start.

“Then let’s go.”

“Yeah.”

Thanks to my efforts, there were now quite a lot of bubbles. I start to wash Tré, covering her in them.

“nh..”

Tré let out an embarrassing voice. My soul was wounded with just that one sound.

—And then I finally managed to finish washing.

Everything had been washed, except for one part of her body. I was fully

satisfied and proceeded to rinse off her body.

“How was it, Tré? Did it feel good?”

“Yeah, Master’s washing technique was good and it felt really nice.....”

“I see, I see. Then I’ll wash you again some.. time.... ah?”

The bubbles covering Tré’s body had disappeared. Or rather, I washed them all away while being praised.

I tried to look away in a fluster but it was already too late. Unlike the hills I saw just then, before my eyes were two small mounds, but they were definitely there.

“What’s wrong, Master.....?”

With me in a daze, Tré moved her body even closer in concern. Naturally, the two mounds also drew nearer.....

“AaaaaaAAaAAaaAAAaaaaAAa.....”

By the time I realised, I had already fallen asleep on the bed.

.....Naked.

Chapter 25: Nice to mee~t you!!

“Ah! Welcome back, Nest-san!”

“Um.. I’m back, Asha-san.”

We have once again returned to the town where our home is.

According to Aura and the others, Asha-san had been worried about me so I first showed up at the guild.

“It’s good that you look healthy.”

Asha-san checks me over for injuries.

I appreciate her concern but she’s been patting my whole body in the middle of the guild. The surrounding gazes are painful.....

“Er.. Asha-san, has anything been happening lately?”

Since she has been worrying about me, I can’t just tell her to stop so I change the subject instead.

“Ah, that’s right. Some famous guild members have come to town and will be holding adventurer classes while they’re here.”

Asha-san clapped her hands together as if remembering. Achieving my goal, I feel like the gazes around me have softened.

“Adventurer classes.....?”

“Yes, it seems an active party has come from the capital and there will be a combat course, a logistical support course regarding healing and item management, and a control course that will point out the characteristics and weaknesses of various monsters.”

Oh, in that case.....

“Yo! My name’s Dude! I’m sayin’ this myself but I’m the vanguard of a party that’s surprisingly pop’lar. From today on I’ll be mostly teachin’ ya ’bout combat so best regards!!”

“”””Nice to mee~t you!“”””

I’m currently in the adventurer course specialising in combat. Incidentally, Aura and the others aren’t here.

As a healer, Tré took the logistics course, and the apparent genius of studying, Aura, took the control course. The one I was most worried about, Lily, ended up taking the logistics course with Tré, as she was good at cooking and seemed fairly dexterous.

“Then, first is how ta defend yourselves!”

Dude-sensei said this with an extremely natural expression, but everyone in the class just looked at him puzzledly, including me.

“Sensei, are we starting with defence instead of attacking.....?”

One person voiced what we were all thinking.

“Yea, we’re beginnin’ with defence! Some people might say ‘offence is tha greatest defence!’ but I think that’s wrong! I think that defence is tha best offence!”

.....Defence is the best offence?

“Try defendin’ against your enemies’ full body blows!! Ya can think of them as bein’ in a [deadlock] with just that!! Are ya gonna lose ta someone like that!! Ya won’t, right!!

I’ve never thought that before. But it might be true. Even I don’t think I can win if I come across someone my knife is ineffective against.

“”””Yeeeaaaahhh!!!!””””

As expected of an adventurer, this kind of mood is really great. I also go along with the flow.

“Then I’ll be teachin’ ya how ta defend now!!

“”””Yeeeaaaahhh!!!!””””

Our feelings were all in sync.

[T/N: Anyone wanna find me a GIF of something like this?]

-----[Aura
POV]-----

“Well then, let’s start the command course. My name is Mist. Best regards to you from here on.”

Right now I am taking the control course. The others have gone somewhere else, but I wanted to do what I can so I’m participating in this one.

“Then, let’s have you introduce yourselves starting from over there.”

There weren’t a lot of participants, but the number wasn’t little either.

The introductions finished one by one and came around to me.

“Um.. I’m Aura. I may be Nest’s slave but please treat me well.....”

As expected, people will have something to say when I introduce myself as a slave. Nest didn’t treat me like a slave, but a slave generally receives a lot of scorn just by not having their master around.

I understood this from the matter at the capital.

“Hm?Ah! Well if it isn’t Aura-chan!”

“Eh.....”

It was one of the wives from the cooking class .

“..Huh!?”

I thought they were all strangers but when I look closely, many of them were the townspeople to whom I’m obliged.

“I haven’t seen you around lately so I was worried.”

“Right, you haven’t been coming to the shop either.”

“Ah, I’m sorry. We went to the capital for a bit.....ah.”

I had forgotten to talk politely because they were people I knew.

“It’s fine, there’s no need for formalities. If we force you to do such a thing, Nest-chan would stop treating us.”

“That kid’s magic is amazing!”

.....In this town Nest saved, everyone really are nice people.

It’s because Nest has been trying hard.

“Umm... Why did everyone join the adventurers class?”

“Hm.. It’s because we couldn’t do anything last time when the monsters attacked and had to leave it all up to the men. We’ve also got to work hard.”

So it’s the same as me..... I’ve also got to do my best so I can help Nest!!

“.....Umm.. May I start soon?”

“””Ah, we’re sorry!!”””

Come to think of it, we’re in the middle of the adventurers class. Mist-san resumed the class with a wry smile.

.....Wait for me, Nest, I'll work hard so I can be helpful.

.....I could hear some sort of warcry from far away, but I'm going to do my best!!

Chapter 26: Then, they were hit

“We’ll be startin’ with the basics of defence, an’ that’s [not getting hit by the enemy]. Cos if ya just pointlessly take their attacks, you’ll just wear yourself out! It’s important ta see through your enemies’ attacks an’ avoid them as much as ya can.”

“””Osu!!!!”””

Under Dude-sensei’s guidance, we commenced the adventurer’s class. The adventurer class started under Dude-sensei’s guidance. He told us that [defence is the best offense] and taught us to defend immediately.

The training method was simple.

Everyone would stand in a line. One-by-one they head to Dude-sensei. Then, they get hit. Finally, they return to the end of the line.

That’s it.

We were really supposed to avoid the hits but as a famous adventurer, his attacks weren’t that easy to avoid.

In the beginning, everyone tried to dodge but now we think of ways to soften the blows.

In that sense, Dude-sensei’s attacks hurt and were unavoidable.

Although I say that, it didn’t really hurt when my face was struck. However, I thought it would be troubling if I was the only one not hurt and it raised suspicions, so I let out an ‘urg!!’ sound, practice dodging earnestly and continue to be hit.

By the end of training, everyone’s faces were red and swollen, and there were even people with bloody noses.

“Well, that’s all fer today! My teammate can use recovery magic so y’all can go ta her for healing after this!!”

“Ah, I know recovery magic so I can do the healing.”

I mean, the others will probably worry if we go back like this.....

“But can ya heal so many people? It’s quite a lotta people.”

“There’s no problem if it’s only this much.”

Besides, most of the people undergoing this training were from the town so they should know that I can use recovery magic.

Everyone lines up in front of me and I heal them one at a time..

“.....Why’s he here if he can use recovery magic ta such an extent.....?”

At a distance, Dude-sensei seemed to be muttering something but decided to focus on the treatment.

“Heal—”

-----[Tre
POV]-----

“Okay, so let’s start!!

“””Thank you for the instruction.””””

We were now taking the logistics course.

“My name’s Childe! I may look like this but I can cast recovery magic, you know!”

Childe says, sticking her chest out confidently.

“So Tre-chan, what do you think is the most important in this logistics course?”

Childe-san asks me, after everybody has introduced themselves.

“Um.. I think it’s to help everyone in the vanguard as much as possible.....”

“Yes, that’s also important, but I believe that the most important thing in this logistics course is to [know what you can do]!!”

“To know what I can do.....”

“Right! Try thinking about it, okay everyone? In front of you is an injured ally and a really strong enemy. However, you have no way to heal your ally and the enemy is targeting the town you are staying in.”

“.....”

Everyone imagines the situation.

In my case, the ally would probably be Master.....? Let’s pretend that Master isn’t able to heal himself.....

“If everyone was in that situation, what would you guys do?”

.....I wonder what I would do in that situation. I don’t think I could abandon

Master but then the town would be attacked.....

“Nest can heal himself so it should be okay.”

Lily exclaimed beside me.

“Oh, so that person called Nest can use recovery magic!”

“Yeah, that’s right!!”

“So if that Nest used up all his mana and couldn’t use recovery magic, what would you do?”

“Hmm.. I dunno!”

Lily says she doesn’t know while tilting her head.

The people around laugh but I can’t imagine that situation happening in real life.

Master heals so many people every day at the guild.

Everyone might think that’s normal but I can use recovery magic and yet it’s impossible for me.

Unlike other magic, recovery magic consumes a lot of mana. If I do my best, I can also heal a lot of people in one day but that’s because I take a lot of breaks.

I don’t continually heal for a whole day without rest, but I don’t think I could do it.

Furthermore, Master doesn’t seem particularly tired after healing everyone and he continues as normal the next day.

For that Master to be unable to use recovery magic...

If there was an enemy like that, it would probably be useless even if we let the town know.

Well.. I really don't think there would be such an enemy though.....

"Ah, is there anyone here who can cast recovery magic?"

Childe-san asked near the end of the class.

"I can use recovery magic....."

"Really! You can use recovery magic even though you're so young, that's amazing!"

"That's....."

There were other people who could use recovery magic, and they all assembled around Childe-san.

"Um.. you see, the reason I gathered you guys is because I expect many injured people from the combat course my teammate is running, and I'd like your help in treating them. There'll be quite a lot of people and I don't think I can handle them all by myself."

That's the course that Master was taking but as expected, there really would be injuries.....

"Ah! They're here!!"

Childe-san looks behind us and exclaims.

Approaching is a large man who appears to be Childe-san's teammate.

“Ah, Chil. I wanted to talk about tha treatment but...”

“Yeah, there are several people here who can use recovery magic so it’s fine!!”

“About that... Actually, there was someone in my group who could use recovery magic...”

“.....huh?”

“Yea, an’ that guy healed everyone already.”

“Eh? Why is someone like that in your group!?”

“Yea, I wonder too.”

Childe-san’s expression said ‘I wanted him to come here!’ Sorry but there’s no doubt that’s Master.....

Yup, Master really is amazing———

Chapter 27: ...So, let's do it

“Alright!! We’re doing the same trainin’ today!!”

“”””O-osu.....””””

Since we started, we’ve just been getting hit every day. After knowing that I can use recovery magic, Dude-sensei has been hitting us even more.

It was actually supposed to be training for dodging practice but until now, there have only been 2 or 3 people who managed to dodge by fluke.

Line up, get hit, line up again. Only repeating this.

“Alright, we’ll end the trainin’ here!!”

“Eh, it’s only noon though.....”

Usually we continue until evening but today we ended at noon.

“Everyone thought this trainin’ was just about bein’ hit by me, right!”

“”””.....””””

.....It’s not what we thought, we were actually just being hit.

“Okay! Now everyone form a pair an’ try exchanging blows!! Then ya should understan’ the results of yer training!”

We pair up as per Dude-sensei’s instructions, still harbouring some doubt. My partner clearly looks like an adventurer.

“.....So, let’s do it?”

“Alright, you’re always healing me so I’ll hit lightly.”

“Ah, kind regards.”

Well, it won’t hurt even if he hits hard though.....

“Right, it looks like everyone has paired up. Then, let’s start!!!”

“”””Uuuooohh””””

Our sparring started at Sensei’s signal.

Speaking of which, this guy said he’d go easy but his shout just now was full of determination.

My opponent stepped forward with his left foot, so—

What’s coming is his [right fist].

I calmly see through my opponent’s movements and respond with a counter. My opponent seemed to have expected it, dodging it and retreating to a distance.

—Eh?

“.....Huh? What happened just now?”

“Well, it seemed I could clearly see your movements....”

“Me too. After my attack missed, I somehow knew a counterattack was coming.”

Looking around use, it seemed that everyone experienced the same thing; they had all stopped moving.

Dude-sensei alone had a satisfied expression.

“This.. is tha results of yer training!”

“Eh, but we never managed to avoid? We were always being hit.....”

“Didn’t y’all start thinking of ways ta reduce the force of my attacks? My attacks are quite somethin’, if I do say so myself, an’ can’t be compared ta those adventurers. You’ve been accustomed ta the speed of my attacks an’ so, ta you, those ordinary attacks of yours are easy ta avoid.”

To think there was such a deep meaning behind those practices where we just get hit.....!!

This must be Dude-sensei’s resourcefulness as an adventurer.

“Woah!!”

My sparring partner suddenly makes an attack. However, it seems the results of our training is really showing and I still manage to avoid the danger perfectly.

“This is amazing.”

.....Yeah, it really is amazing. I never thought we would manage to do this much in this short period of time.

“Also! You’ve still only become accustomed ta my movements temporarily, so tomorrow we’re gonna continue practicin’ ta avoid my attacks for a li’l while!!!

Everyone had been complaining about 'only being hit again' a short time ago but now we had complete faith in Dude-sensei.

~~~~~"Thank you for the instruction!!!~~~~~

.....I think that was probably the loudest of all our greetings until now.

I also continue to cry out like an idiot along with everyone around me.

# Chapter 28: You're our enemy!!

A week has passed since the start of our training where we are primarily being hit by Dude-sensei. I have recovery magic so there are no injuries left on our faces.

So far there hasn't been a single person who has been able to avoid Dude-sensei's attacks, but everyone has experienced their respective growths.

"Alright, from today we'll be doing a different training!! For one week, I will have you guys take on quests from the guild!!"

"The guild.....?"

"Yea, I'll have ya guys defeat monsters like goblins an' such. Ya can go alone or make a party. It's fine as long as ya defeat a monster."

.....And thus we came to the guild.

"Nest-san, good morning!"

When I enter the guild, Asha-san approaches me as usual.

"Huh, have the adventurer classes ended?"

"No, we're supposed to take on guild quests for a week....."

"""".....""""

The people I have been happily chatting with before we came to the guild, now looked on silently while I was getting along with Asha-san.

“Well then, when you decide on a quest, please bring it over.”

Saying that, Asha-san returned to the reception desk. I feel the gazes at my back and slowly turn around.

“I was thinking of partying with you but I’ve changed my mind”

“”“Me too.”””

Sure enough, they said that sort of thing.

“Hey, we don’t have that kind of relationship, okay!? I’ve been such a bother to her too, and I can’t help it because of my work.”

And I made such a bad first impression too.....

“I-is that so..... That’s good then. We really are comrades!”

“That’s right!”

My words succeeded and the feelings of not partying with me seemed to mitigate.

“Ah, but this guy always has three girls accompanying him. And they’re quite the beauties.”

“”“You’re our enemy!!”””

—In the end, there wasn’t a single person remaining and I was left to take on quests by myself.....

Although I was alone, I couldn't just do nothing after all, so I check the bulletin board to see what quests there were.

The quests ranged from [Herb Picking] to [Monster Subjugation], and even [Cleaning the Town].

The training this time is monster subjugation, so I'll accept the others quests again when I feel inclined.

In terms of monster subjugation, there were quests for monsters such as Goblins, Orcs and Ogres. In regards to monsters I could handle safely by myself, it would be the goblins I have already defeated before.

I've never seen the other monsters before, and I don't know how strong they are.

Luckily, the goblin subjugation quest is located near the town so if I leave now, I should have enough time to finish by evening.

I bring the goblin subjugation request to the reception desk where Asha-san is.

“Um.. I'll go with this please.”

“Understood. Nest-san should be fine if it's just goblins, but please take care, okay?”

Asha-san warns me, almost looking like she intends to leave her post.

“This is Nest-san's first quest so I will have to issue a Guild Card for you.”

“Guild Card?”

“Yes, this card serves as identification and denotes your status as a guild member. You can also receive a 10% discount for weapons and armour by

showing this card.”

“What happens if I lose it?”

“I’m afraid you will have to reissue it in that case. It is issued to you for free the first time, but there will be a handling charge of 200 thousand En when reissuing so please be careful.”

“Understood. Umm... Is there anything else I should know?”

“There’s only one more thing. It seldom happens, but you may be summoned by the guild.”

“By summoned, you mean.....”

“For example, to form a subjugation party for something like the monster attack from before. Of course, you will only be called if they believe you have the ability though.”

“By the way, is there a penalty for refusing or something?”

“No, they won’t force you to choose. You may be risking your life so they won’t say anything unreasonable..... Nevertheless, most people accept the summons and that helps a lot.”

.....After asking a few more questions, I manage to obtain a Guild Card without any problems.

Around me were the corpses of several goblins.

Until now, I’ve just left the corpses as they are but according to Asha-san, ‘it’s necessary to bring part of the subjugated monster back as proof’. I cut off the Goblins ears as the proof.

“Ughh.. It really is disgusting.”

I’ve been cutting down the enemies with my arm moving automatically, but

it's somewhat disgusting when I intentionally cut them myself. Somehow my arm doesn't react to non-living beings so I have do it myself in the end.

With my hand dyed in goblin blood from cutting off their ears, I return to town.

# Chapter 29: Black Cloak, you say!? Identity Unknown, you say!?

“The dude over there, do you wanna party with me?”

“.....eh, Me?”

The day after I started exterminating goblins by myself, a spritzy-looking guy invited me to form a party.

“To tell you the truth, I accepted a subjugation quest for the Goblin King but the guys I was meant to go with suddenly disappeared..... And then you came along with so many goblin ears. I’ve only just come to this town so I don’t really know my way around.”

“Ah, if you’re fine with me then okay.”

After all, the guys from the adventurer class won’t party with me anyway.....

“Oh, really!? That really helps. I heard it’s hard to fight the Goblin king with just newbies so it really helps!”

“I’m also a new recruit who just registered yesterday though.....”

“.....Eh, but you defeated so many goblins yesterday though, right?”

“Yeah, I went to fight them right after registering yesterday.”

“Ehh.....”

His voice was obviously filled with dejection.

“.....I’m sorry?”

With this, there’ll probably be no more talk of forming a party. Even though I thought I would finally get to do a quest in a party.....

“Then we’ll need two, three more people.”

“.....Are you still continuing the talk of partying by any chance?”

I was thinking about maybe taking the goblin quest again but the boy spoke in an extremely natural manner.

“Er... If it’s alright, I’d like your help.”

Come to think of it, he said he also just came to this town recently so as fellow rookies, I’d like to get along.

“I’m fine with that, so let’s go find a few more people.”

“Yeah!!”

We started to search for the remaining members of our party.

-----[King  
POV]-----

“Sigh.. Is there someone who can heal my wife and daughter anywhere.....”

It’s been a few days since I summoned the top recovery magic users, and I

have been continuously doing my job as King.

In the end, those people couldn't heal my daughter, and I now have my subordinates searching for other recovery magic users.

However, I don't believe someone else can heal a disease that my daughter wasn't able to cure.

With a heavy hand, I grasp my pen and continue working again today.

*Knock Knock*

Suddenly, there is a knock at my door.

“.....Who is it.”

I'm on guard against the one coming at such a late hour but I still call out anyway.

It could be that they found an excellent healer.

Filled with both uneasiness and hope, I await the response.

“———Darling.”

“—————Huh?”

Just now.. Whose voice was that?

I've had her conversing beside me over the span of many years. Right, that voice was—

“———Father.”

Wait, am I hearing things?

It can't be, I'm familiar with this one as well. This voice is-----

I rise from my seat and open the door with a trembling hand.

“Aaahhhhhhhh!!!”

I've been constantly worrying. About the possibility of the two of them dying as they were.

Right now, before my eyes were my beloved wife and daughter--.

“Wh-what happened!? Is your illness alright!?”

The two look to be in good health no matter what, but I still ask.

“Yes, it's fine now, darling.”

“Right, as you can see, we've been cured.”

“That's great!! That's rea-llly great!!”

My vision blurs.

I can't show my subordinates this appearance of mine but at least for today.... No, today I will allow it.

I embrace the two and continue crying in a loud voice--

Hearing my voice, the guards come running.

Seeing our figures and guessing that my daughter and wife were cured, everyone also starts crying and shouting together.

After a while, we finally manage to calm down.

The guards returned to their posts and only my wife, daughter, and I were left in the room.

“S-so how is it that your disease is cured? Did it go away naturally?”

Having shown them such a disgrace sight I was now a little embarrassed.

“No, it wasn’t cured naturally.”

“Then how was it cured?”

“It was [Recovery Magic].”

“.....That’s.. your own?”

I can understand if the one who cured that was my daughter who was the best healer in the kingdom.

“No, it wasn’t me.”

“Then who was it? The healers I summoned all left.”

I think there was one person who remained, but he should have left in the end as well.

“Previously, there was an intruder in the castle, right?”

“Ah, yeah there was certainly an intruder. He somehow showed the guards an

illusion of their arms being cut off so they couldn't catch him though."

"I'm afraid that person was the one who healed us."

".....No, wait. That would mean you were healed a few days ago."

The report about the intruder had come a few days ago.

"Yes, that's right. However, we couldn't be sure that there wouldn't be a relapse so we waited for a few days in our room. In the end, we understood that we were completely recovered so we came here."

"Hmm, in that case it couldn't be helped. So, the one who healed you?"

"It seems that he left the castle right after healing us."

"And this girl seems to have given him one of her earrings."

My wife revealed what my daughter omitted.

The earring my daughter had was the one meant to be given when one wanted to marry.

"Wh-what did you say!? No, I did think of rewarding the one who healed you with something that but..... No, of course I would affirm your feelings first!?"

The two of them looked at me scornfully when I brought up the topic of marriage so I explained in a hurry.

"You see, it seems this girl didn't know the significance of that earring and gave it to the one who healed us with the purpose of [meeting again]."

"....."

Seeing my daughter look down with embarrassment, I did not say any more. My wife probably made enough fun of her already.

“..... Well that’s fine. In the worst case, I’ll just have to prepare something else.”

That was something there had been passed down through our royal family for generations, but I still wanted to choose my daughter’s partner carefully.

“Come to think of it, who was the one who healed you?”

I couldn’t not thank him for healing the two.

“.....I don’t know.”

But my daughter said something I did not expect. She was probably sworn to secrecy.

“You don’t really have to hide it, you know? Considering your circumstances, he could have infiltrated the castle to target you two. He did expose himself to danger to heal you.”

“No, that’s not it. He left without giving his name.”

What a surprise. I can’t even thank him.

“What was his appearance like? I can have everyone search for him.”

I suppose I can put up after a search request at the guild. He probably won't be found immediately but they should be able to find him eventually.

"Well you see, he wore a black cloak and was covered with a hood so I don't even know his face. His voice was male but....."

"W-wh-what....."

"F-father?"

H-he concealed his identity with a black cloak, and saved the princess, you say.....?

T-that kind of-----

"SO COOOOOOOOOOOOL!!!"

"Kya!"

My wife and daughter were somewhat surprised but I didn't care about that!!

"BLACK CLOAKKKKK! SOOOO PER-FEECCTTTTTT!!"

That guy is a genius!! He understands a man's romance perfectly!!!

"AAAhhhh!! I want to see him at least onceee!! I want to meet him and become his discipleee!!"

"P-please calm down, Father."

"How can I calm down!! Black Cloak, you say!? Identity unknown, you say!? This won't do!! I must get everyone to gather information on that Black Cloak immediately!!"

The guards come running again at my shout.

“Your Majesty!! Did you call us!?”

“Everyone!! Search for that [Black Cloaked Man] at once!! However, do not investigate his identity at all!! I only want information about where he is and what he is doing and such!!”

“Y-yes!! Understood!!”

With that said, I had them start immediately.

.....Damn!! If only I knew about this sooner.....

I didn't realise because nothing was written in the reports. Who wrote this report!! I'll demote you right now!!!

# Chapter 30: I can just jump off

[~Report on Black Cloak~

Eyewitness reports exist of the person in question

Sighted location: Town

Moniker: Jet-Black Saviour

End.]

I was reading a report I just received.

It was information on Master Black Cloak, whom I greatly admired.

“As expected of him..... I can understand how he is the [Jet-Black Saviour].”

I was currently alone in the room. I lost my composure in front of everyone the other day, but I didn’t do so this time.

As one would expect, a king needs to behave with dignity.

“So [Jet-Black Saviour]-dono was sighted in town. Then I must go there!!”

But it wasn’t so simple to leave my position as the king. I suppose it was fine not to see the [Jet-Black Saviour] in person... no, that shouldn’t be the case!!

My means of heading to town were limited, but this time it should be fine to [travel incognito to inspect the town].

That day, I brought a minimum amount of luggage and departed from the

castle with a small company of guards.

I was travelling incognito, so I put on a black cloak—

-----[Arnest  
POV]-----

“Alright, we finally gathered them.”

“Yeah!! Took quite a while too.”

After a whole day, we finally managed to find some party members.

According to what I heard, the plan is to leave tomorrow on a two night, three day trip. In that case, I should be able to make it back for the adventurer class's training.

“Which reminds me, we've yet to introduce ourselves despite being together all this time.”

It's true that I don't know anyone's names even though we've been searching for party members together.

“Then I'll go first. My name's Weiss.”

“Um.. I'm Arnest. Most people call me Nest.”

Remaining were the two we succeeded in inviting. One held a large shield, and the other possessed a staff.

“Oh, I’m Cyan. As you can see from my equipment, I’m usually a Tank. By the way, this is my li’l bro.”

Saying that, he pushes the person beside him forward.

“Um.. I’m Gale. I can use [Wind Magic].”

“.....Sorry, but what’s [Wind Magic]?”

The three look to me as if asking ‘why don’t you know that!?’

It can’t be helped, right? I’ve stayed in the village until now.

“Simply put, [Wind Magic] is magic that can manipulate wind. When wind accumulates, it’s even possible to cut things like a bladed whirlwind.”

“I-is it possible to fly!?”

“.....It’s true that there have been several people trying to fly with [wind magic] so far, but I’ve never heard of anyone succeeding.”

What a shame. I wanted to look down on the town from the sky at least once though.....

“Ah, but I have heard a story about an old, wise dragon who allowed his adventurer benefactor to ride on his back and fly around in the sky.”

“No, no, Galecchi. It’s not that easy to gain favour from an old dragon.....”

I saw a little hope for an instant, but it seems the possibility of that is exceedingly low.

“Well, I was only a little curious.”

But I do want to try flying before I die. Worst case scenario, I can always just jump off from a high place while casting recovery magic.

.....It's scary so I haven't done it before though.

After we chatting happily, we headed off to buy the necessities for our two night, three day trip.

While talking, I learned that Cyan and Gale were the same as Weiss and had recently come to this town, so I guide them to the shops.

“Firstly, what do you think we need?”

“Hmm, I guess we'll need weapons and armour, don'tcha think? From the looks of it, you only have a knife. Right, Nest-san?”

“Yeah, because this is what I'm most accustomed to using.”

I've only used a sword a few times. And my use of a tree branch was also at the level of playing around.

“But don'tcha think it's better to get a proper sword just in case?”

“I guess so..... Then let's go to the weapon store first.”

We headed to the weapons store and after a spending some time, I ended up buying a lightweight sword that was good for beginners.

“We definitely need provisions.”

“When talking about long-lasting rations, it's got to be Jerky, right?”

“Yeah, I like Jerky so let’s buy a lot!!”

The next place we headed to was the grocery store.

“Oh my, if it isn’t Nest-chan!! It’s been a while.”

Not only have I been coming here regularly, I also see her when she comes in for treatment for scalds from housework, so I’m already acquainted with the lady of the store.

“You’re not here with Aura-chan and the others today?”

“Yes, they’re taking adventurer classes right now so we’ve split up. I came to buy preservable rations today because we’re going on a two night, three day trip. Do you have any recommendations?”

The three behind me watched our exchange with curiosity.

“Hmm, how about this? There’s also that, and this, and that one too.”

The storekeeper steadily arranges items on the store counter.

“Ah, this time I’m going in a party so please prepare enough for 4 people.”

“Oh, is that so? Then there is more.”

In the end, she continued to pile on the goods until the table was full. Well, this much should be reasonable for a two night, three day trip with 4 people.

“Err... Then I’ll take them.”

“Alright, it comes to 5000 En.”

It’s obviously discounted but that was most likely a service.

“Thank you as always. Tell me if you get hurt or anything, okay?”

.....The food we bought would be a burden so we left it to be picked up later.

The three were really surprised though.

# Chapter 31: .....Truly sorry

We continued shopping after leaving the grocery store.

“Then next are [Items], right?”

“Uh.. What items should we buy?”

I've been to the store selling items before but I've never really bought anything.

“Restorative medicine, of course. If we don't have any, we'll be in trouble when someone gets injured.”

“That's right, I'm also thinking of buying some.”

.....Oh, come to think of it, they don't know about me using recovery magic.

“.....Er.. I'm able to use recovery magic so I think it's okay not to buy any.”

“““Eh!?”““”

“I often treat people at the guild, and I also helped the shopkeeper from before so that's why I received such a service before.”

“I-I see, so that's how it is. At any rate, it's pretty amazing of you to be able to use recovery magic despite being an adventurer.”

“I don't really think so though... Well, that's why I don't think we need any restorative medicine but.....”

Even if someone gets injured, it can be healed immediately if I'm there.

“But I still think it’s better to buy some.”

But according to Gale, we should still buy some items.

“I think we should carry several apiece in case we sustain an injury and Nii-san is unable to use recovery magic or we’ve been separated.”

It might be because I’ve been fighting goblins on my own all this time but I’ve never been concerned about that sort of situation.

Certainly, we should probably buy some for an emergency.....

We ended up buying restorative medicine as per Gale’s suggestion.

However, there is one thing I’d like to say..... Isn’t restorative medicine too expensive!!

“Was restorative medicine really this expensive?”

After all, it’s 10 000 En for one.. That’s 10 times the cost of my treatment fee though!?

“Eh, I’m actually surprised that its quite cheaper than the guys selling it in the capital..... Right, Nii-san?”

“Yeah, it really is cheaper.”

“I’m also surprised it’s so cheap!”

If 10 000 En is cheap, how expensive is it in the capital!?

The reward for the Goblin King subjugation this time was 1 million. Normally it's not an opponent a bunch of rookies like us can defeat, and the quest should be undertaken by someone with more skill, but we're covering that with numbers.

So by simple calculation, it comes to 250 000 per person. Buying 5 pieces of restorative medicine each is 50 000, so deducting that from the profit means we gain 200 000 each.

“.....Could restorative medicine have an amazing effect by any chance?”

I can understand if that's the case. I heard that Heal is limited to closing wounds at any rate, so it might be slightly more effective.

“Er.. I haven't seen it firsthand and only heard about it, but apparently it rivals the Heal from recovery magic.”

“O-oh, i-is that so..... By the way, h-how much would it cost to be treated with recovery magic?”

Incidentally, my Heal was approximately 1 000 En per cast.

“From the treatments I saw in the capital, [Heal] is 10 000.”

“A Heal is 10 000!!??”

Wai.. But mine is one tenth of that!?

“[Poison Heal] is 50 000, [Refresh] is 10 000, and [High Heal] should be 100 000 according to the market price.”

“.....What's [Poison Heal] and [Refresh]?”

Unfortunately, I only know [Heal] and [High Heal].

“Eh, didn’t the association teach you when you learnt recovery magic.....?”

“N-no, I somehow managed to do it through self-study.. Hahaha.....”

“Is that so..... Nest-san might have had the talent for recovery magic from the start, if you were able to learn through self-study.”

It’s really lucky if I really had the talent. Because I was able to learn to use the recovery magic I was taken with at first sight.

“So regarding [Poison Heal] and [Refresh], they are——”

.....My goodness.

I’ve been misunderstanding all this time. I had thought that [Heal] was effective on all injuries and illnesses.

But even though recovery magic is recovery magic, in actuality, [Heal] and [High Heal] only have an effect on wounds, and [Poison Heal] only affects illnesses and poison.

And apparently [Refresh] only shows effect on fatigue and weariness.

However, my [Heal] was able to heal the servants’ disease during the case at the castle. They also appeared to have lost their fatigue as well.

.....That’s how it was. I used [Heal] in a situation where one needed to use [Poison Heal] and [Refresh].

And what’s more, they were still effective.

It might still be fine because I hid my face back then but from now on, I must use it properly when healing ill people.

It’s fortunate that I’m aware of it now.

I need to pay more attention to my actions.....

"I'd like you to tell me about other varieties of recovery magic if there are any but....."

"I'm sorry, it's not my specialty so that's all I know..... I'm sorry that I can't be of more help."

"No, no!! You've already helped so much."

But it's bad that there might be other recovery magic. I don't know where I might mess up again.

Well, I guess I can get Tré to teach me when I return.....

Nevertheless.....

That mister I first treated..

It was that mister's fault that my medical treatment was at such a low price.....

Well, it was true though? That it was thanks to that that so many people came!!

When we were buying items, I had thought that there was an awfully large amount of restorative medicine left over.....

That's definitely my fault.....

.....Truly sorry.

# Chapter 32: I had him take it off

Today is the day we leave for our Goblin King subjugation quest.

We were supposed to assemble at the guild, but I came a little too early.

“Nest-san, may I have a moment?”

While I was sitting at the guild table like I always do when healing, Asha-san comes over.

“Yes, what is it?”

“Actually..... the King usually works in the capital, but today he’s coming to the guild to do an undercover inspection.....”

Is that.. something you should be telling an ordinary person like me?

“T-the king, huh..... I turned down the healing request when I was summoned before, so meeting him would be awkward...”

I might have been able to cure his family if I had treated them, but I didn’t. Because I didn’t want my recovery magic to stand out.

And although I snuck into the castle in disguise, I only managed to heal two servants in the end.

I fear the Saint may already be.....

“So something like that happened..... Then it’s fortunate that you’re leaving on a quest for a few days.”

“It is very lucky. It would be troubling if I was told that I made a lèse-majesté when we met again.....”

“Is that so? Our present king is both wise and generous, and has also earned a lot of support from the masses so it should probably be fine though.”

In that case, is it alright to be a little relieved.....?

“I have a favour regarding him though.. I wanted to ask if you’ll let Aura-san be the guide for the king when he comes to town.”

It’s true that Aura was from royalty, and she should know the proper etiquette.....

“Er.. I don’t have any problem with that. Ah, but please verify with the person herself first.”

“Yes, of course.”

The party members all gathered not long after that and we departed, with Asha-san sending us off.

-----[Aura  
POV]-----

“”“Thank you for the instruction.”””

Today, I’m attending the adventurer class as usual. So far, we’ve been taught the characteristics and weaknesses of various monsters, and I’ve memorised most of them now.

“.....Sorry for interrupting, but is Aura-san here?”

Hearing my name being called, I look over.

Standing there was the guild receptionist, Asha.

“I’m over here.”

I wonder what business she has with me, purposefully coming all the way here.

“May I have some of your time? It’s a bit hard to talk about it here so.....”

“I get it. Then let’s go.”

Asha has told me not to use honorifics since before we went to the capital, so I speak to her plainly.

We leave this populated place and head to a place with less people.

“So, did something happen? To have you come all the way here...”

“Actually, the king has currently come to the guild to inspect the town incognito and I wanted to ask you to guide him around, but how about it?”

“.....But I am a slave, is it okay? It’s true that I used to be royalty though.”

“We have already affirmed that with the king so it doesn’t really matter, or so I’m told. As for Nest-san, I have already obtained his consent this morning. However, he said to ‘verify with the person herself’ so I’m here to ask you.”

.....Nest said he was leaving for his quest this morning so she probably confirmed it with him in the morning.

“.....Well in that case, I don’t really mind. Should I head there right now?”

“That is the plan, but I’d like you to change into a uniform first. The king is travelling incognito so it won’t be very fancy though.”

After informing Mist-san, I left the classroom and followed Asha.

Having changed into a uniform like Asha’s, we came before the room that the king was waiting in.

I knock on the door and await a response from inside.

“.....Mn, come in.”

Hearing what was probably the King’s voice, I am guided into the room by Asha after a short pause.

“I apologise for the wait. I have brought the person in charge of guiding Your Majesty this time.”

Asha gives me a fleeting glance, indicating that I should introduce myself here.

“How do you do? I am serving as your guide this time, my name is Aura. Although I am but a lowly slave, I will endeavour to prevent any discomfort. It is an honour to meet you, Your Majesty.”

I utilized the formalities that I haven't been using much lately and finish introducing myself.

"Hm, it's only a short time but I'll be counting on you."

Normally this isn't a phrase that should be said to a slave like me, but this king seems to be different to the royalty I know.

Asha told me a little about him when I was changing into the uniform and I can agree that he would be popular with the masses like this.

The king was wearing a black cloak, but the town was susceptible of associating it with the [Jet-Black Saviour] because of Nest, so I had him take it off when we were leaving the guild.

I felt like the kings face darkened somewhat but I guess that was just my imagination.....?

# Chapter 33: I want to let him experience them

“Your Majesty, this is the shopping district. The people living in town come here to shop.”

Indeed, this would be the highlight of the town. Although it's not to the extent of the capital, there's a lot of pedestrian traffic, and yet the public order is excellent.

“.....”

.....Nevertheless, the king's reaction is really weak.

Could I possibly have said something bad without realising it?

“.....Umm, Your Majesty. Is something the matter?”

“Desist with the ‘Your Majesty’ business. I’m travelling incognito so it’s fine to just treat me normally.”

“B-but I can’t.....”

“It’s Ethique.”

“Huh?”

“My name. From now on, just call me Ethique without honorifics. And the formality is unnecessary as well.”

.....No, no, if a slave like me calls the king without honorifics then there would have been no meaning in me being the guide!!

But if I refuse, I would definitely be offending him.

Hmm. What's to be done.....

“—To tell you the truth, I wanted to be born not as royalty, but as an ordinary person with no authority whatsoever. It seems natural for a person with authority to be working ‘for the kingdom’ and ‘for the nation’.

Not only that, even one’s own actions are greatly restricted. As the king, I am a good example of that..... Well, this time I came here a little high-handedly though. I’ve heard about your past at the guild, but you should understand as former royalty, right?”

.....Indeed, there were some things I understood as a former member of royalty.

In the past, even leaving the castle was only permitted during special occasions. Furthermore, I was escorted by so many guards on those occasions.

I ended up as a slave. However, I gained a little sister like Lily. I was even able to befriend everyone in town. And above all, I met a master like Nest.

—These were surely things that couldn’t be obtained had I stayed royalty.

If I consider the king to be the same now, then at least for [today], and if today is no good then at least for [now], I want to let him experience them.

“I get it. It’s Ethique, right? But you can’t accuse me of lèse-majesté afterwards, okay?”

“Yeah, I know that much.”

“.....Anyway, if you were born as an ordinary person with no authority whatsoever, what would you have wanted to be?”

“.....[The Jet-Black Saviour], I guess. Well, I know that that’s impossible though. That’s why I’ll settle for an adventurer. Every man dreams of being an adventurer at least once.”

“Yeah, my master is also on a quest right now. I-if I remember correctly, it was for.. a goblin king, I think.....”

Wai.. Ethique said [the Black Saviour] just now but that's not referring to Nest, right.....?

“Oh, a goblin king, huh. It seems like your master also longs to be like [the Black Saviour]-sama.”

“Th-that might be so.”

That's definitely NESSTTTT!!! M-moreover, the ‘sama’ honorific was also mixed in among the confusion!?

When Nest gets back from his quest, I'll have to repeatedly caution him about exposing his true identity in front of the king.....

-----[Arnest  
POV]-----

“Come to think of it, Nestcchi's pretty close with that person from the guild, huh?”

Weiss said, after we left the town in a wagon.

“Indeed, they were chatting on quite good terms.”

“Yeah. Even chatting was rare at our guild, let alone being sent off.”

The Cyan siblings who were steering the wagon also turned to the rear and joined the conversation.

“Uhh.. Rather than being close, I guess it’s more like she helped me out with various things in the guild, and our relationship improved because of that?”

At any rate, Asha-san is a beauty in a guild full of beautiful receptionists.

Furthermore, her interaction with the adventurers is also very courteous and thus I see many guys appealing to her.

Even so, I have yet to hear anything about her dating someone. And because of that, there is much speculation floating around such as whether she already has a man in her heart, or whether she actually prefers girls.

“Oh, so it’s like that. I assumed you had that sort of relationship for sure, but that’s too bad.”

“Well it’s true she’s a beauty, and I’d also envy whoever she dated. I also received a lunchbox she made once, it was super delicious.”

That was really delicious.....

It would be good if I had another opportunity, but it’s rather impudent for me to ask of my own accord.

“.....No, any way you think of it, that sort of thing is that, right.....”

“That?”

“””.....“””

Why are you all silent? I want you guys to tell me what that means.....

“W-which reminds me, I want to rely on Nest and Weiss for the night watch so you guys should get some rest now.”

“R-roger.”

In the end, I was ignored just like that, although Cyan also had a point.

Following his advice, Weiss and I lay down inside the shaking wagon.

...Yeah. Sleeping in the wagon is hard. I knew that though.

Although I call it a journey, we arrived near the location where the goblin king was sighted while Weiss and I were sleeping.

According to Gale, the monsters had been too scarce but I suppose it's best that there aren't any monsters.

With the sky turning dark, we started setting up camp and I searched for kindling for the fire together with Weiss.

“We've gotten this much so let's head back.”

“Yeah.”

Just when I caught sight of one final stick and picked it up..

“Grrrrr.....”

—————I could faintly hear the growls of that.

Something that could never be produced by goblins or goblin kings, a deep and powerful voice.

The hazy figure that could be seen before my lowered gaze.

A huge foot with a claw the size of my torso.

When I timidly raised my eyes, before me was-----

-----A [Dragon].

# Chapter 34: I'm gonna go fly a bit

"I-it's a dragon....."

Right, before our eyes right now was, without a doubt, a dragon.

We instinctively understood that this dragon exuding an absolute presence, with deep crimson scales covering its body, was like a wall we couldn't surmount.

Too preoccupied with searching for kindling, I came within reaching distance of its foreleg.

I immediately try to distance myself from there, making as little sound as possible.

But that seemed to displease the dragon instead, and it started to raise its large claw.

And with a speed unimaginable for its size, it swings down at me.

This time, my arm starts to react to the dragon's leg that was swinging down at a speed my eyes could barely follow.

.....Perhaps I also beat a dragon with this?

This arm of mine, that comes alive by itself, has killed many monsters so far.....

That thought only lasted momentarily.

The claw and my arm crossed for an instant and the one dancing in the air afterwards was [my arm].

At that moment, I realised that my thinking was naïve.

Firstly, comparing the [dragon] with other monsters was a mistake itself. This

dragon, which overwhelmed the surroundings just by being there, and ordinary monsters differed like heaven and earth.

“N-nestcchi!!”

With so much happening, I was dumbfounded for an instant but I managed to come to my senses at the sound of Weiss’s voice.

“Heal!!”

I promptly cast recovery magic on my own arm, and concentrate on escaping.

“N-nestcchi!? Y-your arm just regrew!?”

“Yeah, I’ll explain or whatever later so let’s flee for now!!”

What we should be doing now is escaping from the dragon. Even now, that large body swayed while chasing... after.. us.....?

When I look over my shoulder, nothing was happening. The dragon in question was in the same place as before, and was simply looking at us.

“Huh, it’s not coming to chase us.....”

I stare at the dragon while the sky darkens.

“Rather than the dragon not chasing us, isn’t it that it can’t chase us?”

The dragon appeared to be repeating the action of trying to stand up, and

sitting down again.

“Th-that might be true. W-we’re saved.....”

Weiss sat down on the spot, as if he was released from the tension.

But to be honest, now wasn’t the time for that. At this time, what was occupying my mind were Gale’s words.

“Ah, but I have heard a story about an old, wise dragon who allowed his adventurer benefactor to ride on his back and fly around in the sky.”

In short-----

-----If I heal the dragon, I should be able to fly?

It had bothered me a little so I had asked Aura what an ancient dragon was afterwards.

Apparently, [ancient dragon] is the name for a dragon that had lived for many years and had gained intelligence.

I haven’t seen a dragon before, but even so, I feel that this time’s dragon is clearly too big.

I dare say, it has probably lived for many years.

Living a long time means that it should have acquired the minimum amount of intelligence.

-----The conditions have been met.

“Fufufu.”

I smiled in anticipation in regards to the possibility of flight.

“N-nestcchi? What’s the matter, all of a sudden..”

“I’m gonna go fly a bit now.”

Saying that, I start walking towards the dragon. I could hear Weiss’s confused voice behind me, but that didn’t matter right now.

I’m going to fly!!

Having approached the dragon, I examine its injury while heeding its movements.

It seems that its wing has been injured so it can’t fly.

Be relieved, I’m going to heal you now.....!

“HEEAALLL!!!!”

.....This might be the Heal with the greatest magic power imbued into it so far.

But if this can allow me to fly then it’s a really great thing!!

.....The dragon started to notice a sense of incongruity in its own body. Gradually, it started moving its wings.

Finished confirming to a certain extent, the dragon stares at me.

It seems to have intelligence so it should understand that I was the one who healed it.

—Then, it finally stands up.

Like that, it flapped its wings a few times, and then turned its back on me.

“Come ride on my bac-Gyabu!!??”

-----Right now, I am flying in the sky.

I feel like the distance to the ground is a little close but I won't voice such selfishness.

It's fine as long as I can fly.

.....Even if that was because I was sent flying by the dragon's tail.

The fun ended, and I tumble onto the floor.

I immediately cast a heal and start running to where Weiss was.

“AHAHAHAHA”

—Who cares about magic. Because in the end, I was blown away by the dragon's tail and I got to fly in the sky——

“AS IFFFFF!!!”

Which part of that was flying in the sky?

The flying that I'm talking about was more like this, right!?

After we escape from this flying dragon that was chasing us, I'm going to hit Gale once.

“D-DAMNNNN ITTTTT!!!”

I continued running in the dark while crying——

# Chapter 35: It was easy

“Haa..... Is it.. alright now.....?”

“L-looks like it.....”

.....It was a lot of trouble running away from the dragon.

When tired, I would use my [Heal] to cure us, then heal again when we got tired. I thought I might die from that cycle.....

“Oh, you’re finally back. You didn’t return no matter how much time passed so I thought something happened.”

“Ah, yeah.”

It seemed like Cyan and Gale were indeed worried, but we simply obtained a slightly belated meal.

Cyan and Gale had been entrusted with driving, so the night watch was left to Weiss and I.

“Then we’ll be going to sleep.”

“Best regards.”

Saying that, the two entered the wagon. It was only for the night, but Weiss and I had to keep a lookout.

“.....”

Weiss usually chats with everyone but he hasn't spoken much since we came back.

".....So what the hell was up with your recovery magic? You healed a severed arm in an instant. I thought you might be keeping it a secret so I didn't mention it when the others were around though."

That's right, my real recovery magic ended up being seen by Weiss. It was an unbelievable situation before, so I thought I was able to deceive him but it seems that his silence until now was out of courtesy.

"Th-that is....."

My recovery magic was basically a secret. Even when I need to use it, I ensure that my face won't be exposed.

However, this awkward mood between us isn't good either, especially when we are taking this quest together.

I was at fault for using the recovery magic in front of Weiss anyway, so I guess I have no choice but to give up and explain now.....

I'll have to request that he not tell other people though.

".....Actually, it seems that my recovery magic has a somewhat different effect than the usual."

"Well, it certainly was amazing."

"But, I don't really want to stand out.. or rather, even when I do use recovery magic, I make sure to hide my face."

The result of that was me receiving the embarrassing [Jet-Black Saviour] title

though.

“Eh, but I think that having my arm cut off would hurt too much for me to concentrate on healing though.....”

“Regarding that, it’s due to my special training for recovery magic.”

“Special training for recovery magic?”

“Yeah, when I was doing special training for recovery magic, I would cut my own hand and stuff. My sense of pain turned weird because of that, and now it doesn’t really hurt even if I cut off my arm.”

“Th-that’s pretty amazing.....”

“I guess that’s how my recovery magic is. It would really help if you didn’t tell anyone else about this.”

If word spread from this and reached the king’s ears, I might be arrested for the incident with the princess.....

I might be executed like usual or something.

“Understood. I never had that intention anyway.”

“Ah, I’m counting on you.”

Night turned into day, and Cyan and Gale woke up.

Weiss and I took a nap for a short while, and then we headed off to subjugate the Goblin King.

I would win against the goblin king in a one-on-one fight, so honestly, the four-on-one this time gave us plenty of leeway.

If someone was injured, I would heal them, and then resume attacking.

Within 10 minutes, we had managed to bring down the goblin king.

“I didn’t think it would be so easy. Having recovery really helps a lot.”

“No, Gale’s wind magic was also amazing, and having a vanguard also made it easier.”

We cut off proof of the goblin king’s subjugation, and went on our way back to town.

-----[Adventurer  
POV]-----

I am an adventurer registered with the guild.

Today, I was harvesting medical herbs with a party a little away from town.

“Well, the monsters were scarce today so we’ve gathered quite a bundle!!”

“Indeed, we’ve only seen them once.”

Normally there would be around 10 monster encounters with goblins and such, but today they were in hiding.

Since there weren’t any monsters, we all collected herbs instead of keeping a lookout.

After a short while, we had collected as many herbs as we could carry, so we took a break.

“With this much, I’ll be able to live in comfort for a while!!”

The demand for the herbs was unexpectedly high, and it could fetch a high

price if we had enough.

———Thud

Suddenly there was a tremor in the ground. Just like the footsteps of something.....

———Thud thud

And in addition, there were several of them.

———Thud THUD!!

The sounds gradually grew louder, and eventually stopped.

“””.....“””

My party looked behind me in astonishment.

There was probably something behind me..... When I turned around, before me—

—————were Oni.

They were grinning as if they had discovered prey.

Wherever and however they were seen, they were clearly [Ogres].

“!!”

Their numbers, [three].

Ogres were supposed to be known as monsters who didn't like crowds.

A single ogre possessed the power to destroy a village in scale, and there were three of them.

This place wasn't very far from the town. At this rate, there was a possibility of them attacking the town.

"Hey, you guys!! I'll distract them so go inform the guild!! Report this matter at all costs!!!"

In that case, what we, ourselves, must do now is to immediately report this to the town.

"N-no way!?"

"It's fine so just GO!!!!"

I shout, avoiding an ogre's swinging fist.

"I-I won't forgive you if you die!!!"

"We'll come back immediately!!"

Saying that, they start running in the direction of the town.

However, everyone should have realised it. That they won't be able to see me again.

"Haa, this shithead....."

I'm fed up with having no luck to the end.

.....I wonder if the town will be alright after I'm dead. I wonder if everyone will survive.....

I'm pretty sure there were supposed to be some famous adventurers in town.

Plus, the rumoured [Jet-black saviour] of late should be there as well.

I have no choice but to bet on those guys now, huh.....

I stare at the fist swinging downwards again while thinking that—.

# Chapter 36: I will cry, okay?

“Haa, we’re back.....”

“Yeah.”

We returned after defeating the goblin king, and have finally arrived back at town.

“Then I’m going to return the wagon so you guys go to the guild first.”

“Understood.”

Weiss went to return the wagon we borrowed and we head to the guild to report the completion of our quest.

“.....Doesn’t the town seem rather agitated?”

Gale utters, and when I look around, it certainly feels somewhat disconcerted.

But it was only the adventurers who were in a rush, and the shopkeepers were just doing business as usual.

“.....What happened?”

If we head to the guild for now, we should be able to find out what happened.

“Ah, Nest-san! Welcome back.”

.....This is what causes the misunderstanding, I think as I reply with a 'I'm back'.

"Asha-san, the adventurers seem to be acting weirdly. Did something happen?"

There were hardly any adventurers inside the guild; they had all gone somewhere.

"Ah, did some monsters appear again, perhaps?"

I ask, half joking, half serious.

".....Actually, it is that."

"Do the townspeople know?"

"No, we haven't made an public announcement yet....."

Ah, so that's why only the adventurers are in a hurry.

"But why didn't you make an public announcement?"

I feel like an announcement was promptly made to the townspeople back when the goblins attacked but..... maybe there's some kind of problem this time.

".....The monsters are a problem, they're [Ogres]. The monsters that have appeared close to town, that is."

“[Ogre], is it.....”

Crap, it’s definitely a monster I don’t know. Is it a large moth or something.....?

From Cyan and the others’ astonishment behind me, I could tell it was a strong monster though.

“Presently, a reconnaissance team has gone to verify it but from the reports of the adventurer party who discovered it first, there are likely [three] of them. Now, it’s at a level where the members affiliated with the guild may or may not be able to handle it.”

“I-isn’t that bad?”

“It is bad.”

If it’s a large moth, what kind of attacks does it have.....

Yeah, I can’t imagine it at all.

“Nest-san, I have something to talk to you about so can you come inside for a moment?”

“Ah, yes.”

If it can’t be said here, then it must be something that Cyan and the others can’t hear about. I obediently follow her.

“So the reason I brought you here is to ask if I could have you stop the ogres. As the [Jet-black Saviour], that is.”

.....Asha-san also knew about that, right.

“I said such a thing earlier, but the limit of what the guild can handle at the moment is two at best. I know it’s dangerous, but please. The town.. Please save everyone in the town.”

I won’t say ‘it’s too hard’ to Asha-san who made such a request, with her head cast down and trembling shoulders.

“Err... I understand. So please raise your head.”

I don’t know anything about Ogres but it should be fine if I take Aura along. Aura should be well-informed about fighting ogres since she has been taking the command course.

Of course, I have no intention of letting her participate in combat so I’ll have her stand at a distance.....

“.....Thank you very much.”

But Asha-san’s face was still gloomy.

“.....Er, I’ll listen if there’s anything else I can do.”

“.....”

As expected, her reaction is weak. I-it might be a good idea to quickly ask where the ogres are now.....

“Then, I’ll be heading to where the Ogres are, but where are they located?”

“.....The three ogres are besieging the town from three directions. Please take care of the ogre here, Nest-san.”

She explains while simply pointing to the location on a map.

“Then I’ll head off without delay.”

“.....”

She gave me an explanation but there was no further response. Well, she might be thinking about something.

.....However, when I was about to return to where Cyan and the others were, I was pulled from behind.

Of course, the only one who was there to pull me was Asha-san.

“A-Asha-san.....?”

I remember the day of our first encounter, and become nervous.

“.....Absolutely, please don’t disappear before my eyes. If that happens, I will cry, okay?”

“!!??”

I thought she whispered such a thing in my ear, and on my cheek a soft [something] was.....

Asha-san ran away with amazing vigour, her head lowered.

“A-are Ogres hard to kill.....?”

I tried to switch my mood by uttering that but my head was full of what Asha-san did.

Naturally, this probably wasn't part of the guild's job. Having said that, thinking that she favours me might be conceited of me.

———However, I couldn't help but hope for such a future.

“Asha-san, huh.....”

I don't know how she feels herself though.

If it was like that, I guess I would be happy.....

# Chapter 37: I'm sorry, that's a lie

“Hey, what happened? Just then, the guildswoman who was with you ran out with her face bright red.....”

Weiss asks me, pointing to the guild entrance.

“N-no, nothing happened.....”

Actually, many things happened with Asha-san, but now wasn't the time for that.

“Are you guys going to join the subjugation squad?”

Judging from Asha-san's story, I could guess that the monsters called 'Ogres' were considerably strong.

It wasn't just for Cyan and the others in particular, it's the same for the other adventurers this time. It's different from participating in the goblin subjugation party from before.

There is probably the danger of death. Will they still participate in the subjugation party.....?

“.....I'm going.”

After a short silence, Cyan replies in a small, but determined voice.

“Me too, I will go.”

Gale also follows.

“.....Sigh, doesn’t this mean I have to go as well.”

Finally, Weiss as well.

“Right, that’s everyone then. Firstly, it seems the Ogres have split into three locations. The battle might be one-sided, but let’s split into two groups and each join a subjugation squad.”

“That sounds good.”

“Then let’s split, me with Weiss, and Cyan can partner up with Gale. Now, we’ll take care of our own equipment.”

Saying that much, I pulled Weiss along and exited the guild.

Gale approved of my opinion but my aim was elsewhere. My target was to go alone to the ogre’s place without raising suspicion.

“Weiss, I said such a thing before, but I have to go somewhere else by myself.”

“Um... What do you mean?”

“Actually, the number of ogres this town can handle simultaneously is not three, but two. And therefore, I was requested to go detain the other one.”

Weiss was one of the few people who knew my true recovery abilities so I made this division of groups, thinking I didn’t particularly need to conceal the matter with the [Jet-black Saviour].

“You mean, by yourself?”

“No, I plan to take one more person along. Regrettably, I know too little about monsters so I plan to have someone instruct me during battle.”

Aura was an especially fast learner in the adventurer class too, and it seems she had rapidly memorised the characteristics and weaknesses of the monsters, so this time I’ll put it into practice for the first time.

“Can that person fight?”

“Uh-uh, that’s impossible. I thought I’d have her give me instructions from a distance during the fight but is that really too much?”

If it’s impossible then I’ll have to fight the ogre without any information on it.

“Yes. Ogres are unexpectedly smart, so it might be dangerous.”

“.....In other words, I can only fight alone, huh.....”

It’s true that if I brought her with me, Aura would be helpless if she was attacked.

I can immediately heal any injuries but I must also consider an attack that can kill instantly.

I practiced dodging attacks at the adventurer classes so I should be more or less fine though.....

“In that case, I’ll accompany you too. Like this, I’ll be able to protect them from unexpected movements while running from place to place.”

While I was wondering what to do, Weiss said such a thing.

However, it's true that I'll be able to safely receive instructions, and the danger will be reduced. Furthermore, Weiss already knows about me so I don't have to worry about being exposed either.

“.....Err.. Then can I count on you?”

“Roger.”

“.....And so you came here, is that right?”

“T-that's right. In truth, ogres and stuff are practically unknown to me, you see.....”

Having heard from Mist that Aura had returned home, I ran back and explained the current situation to Aura.

“Then why did you undertake such a dangerous task!!??”

“F-for the sake of everyone in town, I thought.....”

.....I'm sorry, that's a lie. It's only because Asha-san said that kind of thing to me and I couldn't refuse.

“I-in that case, it can't be helped..... But , what should we, as your slaves, do if you end up dying from that.....?”

Aura believed my lie so easily, but she immediately looks down.

“It’s fine. You know my recovery magic, right? Besides, I’m now able to avoid attacks because of the training.”

Well if I die as it is, I must also consider the fact that she might have to spend a lifetime as a slave who has lost her master.

“Then, I’ll release you from slavery now. The slave merchant told me that once a slave has made a contract, the master can release them themselves.”

“Eh.....”

I felt like Aura raised her head a little; so this must have been the cause.

“In that case, even if I die, you’ll be fine no matter what..?”

I thought I was able to advance the conversation, but looking at Aura’s face, I didn’t know what happened.

—Aura was crying.

She turned her face towards me as if in a daze, and tears continued to spill from her eyes even now.

“H-huh? W-why am I.. N-no, nothing’s wrong so.. Really nothing’s.. wrong so..”

Aura tries to stop the flowing tears with her sleeve while muttering, but no matter how I look at it, there’s no way nothing is wrong.

“H-hey, what happened? Are you hurt somewhere?”

Nothing came to mind, and that was the only reason I could think of.

Even now she was desperately trying to stop her tears by rubbing against her sleeve but the tears didn't stop and just the stain on her sleeve continued to grow.

“.....Sorry, now really is.. impossible. After a moment.. return to normal.. again, so..... for now.. sorry..”

.....Leaving those words behind, Aura left the house. The door that was left open indicated that something had happened to Aura one way or another.

After a moment, she said. I don't know how long she meant, but it's likely going to be difficult be instructed in regards to the ogre.

.....This might be the first time I've seen Aura cry.

As far as it goes, Aura always says things to me, her master, without restraint. It's true that there's a part of her that's always obstinate but she usually goes around cheerfully and now her popularity with the townspeople is also quite high.

For that kind of Aura to cry, something significant must have happened to her but I really have no idea.

In addition, being released from slavery should also be a joyous matter to Aura.....

.....However, I can't only think about that now.

Let's clean up the matter of the ogres first. Then when I have time, I can just ask Aura directly.

I retrieve the black cloak I wear as the [Jet-black saviour] from my own room, and head to the meeting place I arranged with Weiss.

# Chapter 38: I'll be a little unreasonable

“Huh, you’re alone?”

By the time I arrived at the rendezvous point, Weiss was already there.

“Yeah, due to a number of reasons. She might come later perhaps, but she probably won’t make it in time.”

As far as it goes, I left a memo with the location before I left the house, but she might not notice it.

“Weiss, do you know anything about ogres?”

“Well, only the general information.”

“Then it would help if you tell me about them.”

Since it was this kind of situation, anyone was fine as long as they were more informed than me.

It was originally planned for Weiss to come too, so it should be fine.

“Okay.”

“Then let’s hurry up and head there.

We quickly left the town, and headed to where the ogre was. I was already wearing the black cloak just in case.

“What’s that for?”

Weiss asks, as if seeing something strange. Come to think of it, I still haven’t explained about [this].

“I told you before about not wanting everyone to know about my recovery magic, right? And so, I fought a monster troop while wearing this to prevent my face from being exposed. And before I knew it, I ended up being called the [Jet-black Saviour], you see.....”

“.....Ain’t that cool?”

“As if it isn’t lame!?

Even I know that. I thought it was a pathetic name when I coincidentally overheard it, and when I learnt that it actually referred to me, sheesh.....!!

However, it’s not like I can do anything about that now.

Moreover, somehow the townspeople don’t think the [Jet-black Saviour] moniker was out of place at all, and even consider it stylish which is terrible.

Even though they should know what a cruel name it was if they thought about it normally.....

While hearing about the ogres in advance, we arrived at the intended location.

The astonishing thing I learnt was that [Ogres] were apparently humanoid monsters. Of course, they couldn’t fly either.

I learnt that they had no relation to large moths at all, but why then would they call them [Ogres], I wonder.....

Another piece of intelligence I should keep in mind, would be the ogres’ overwhelming physical strength.

It seems they would even surpass dragons, if it's just regarding the ogres' physical strength. If I take them on directly, I would be helpless.

“Sigh, I’m starting to get nervous now.”

Nothing ogre-like has entered my field of vision yet, but I dare say it’ll approach that point soon.

Thinking back, the goblins weren’t much of an opponent, and the dragon was scary but I was able to flee from it.

But this time is different.

I already know that it’s [strong]. I also know that I might die if I’m careless.

And also the fact that this a battle where I absolutely can’t [run away]—

“I’ll be counting on you if someone comes, Weiss.”

“Roger”

Right now the townspeople are oblivious to the fact that ogres are coming.

If anyone leaves town and comes here where we are fighting, I won’t be able to concentrate on the battle.

If a townsperson comes, Weiss will inform them of the dangerous monsters, and also ask them to keep it a secret.

I also told him to ask for instructions if a girl named ‘Aura’ comes.

Within my vision, an indistinct figure could be seen.

When I strain my eyes, I see [that].

The figure was unmistakably gradually growing larger, and I could see that it was gigantic even from a distance.

“.....Ah, come to think of it, I didn’t end up releasing Aura and the others from their slave contracts.”

“.....? You had slaves, Nestcchi?”

“Yeah, the one who I planned to come with is one of them, but when I said that I wanted to release them from slavery in case something happened to me, she ran somewhere.....”

I was still pondering it a little but I still don’t know why she cried.

“Err.. So that was the girl called Aura, right. Did that Aura girl really want to be released from slavery? I dunno what her relationship with you is like but if she ran away after you said that then that’s what I think it means.”

.....Was such a thing really a possibility, I wonder.

Does a slave who doesn’t want to be released from slavery really exist?

I expect I would want to be freed immediately.

It would certainly be hard to tell if the master was very good natured, but Aura’s master is me.

I did say not to hold back to a certain extent, but that’s all I did in reality.

Every day, I make them stroll around town with me, and cook with me.

I wonder if it’s possible to not want to be released despite having such a master.....

This kind of thing, I won’t know unless I ask Aura directly.

However, I do want to release them from slavery. I came to think this way since the incident at the checking station when we went to the capital.

.....Well, in order to have a proper chat with Aura, I have to defeat this ogre in front of me first.

By the time I noticed, the figure I could only discern as 'ogre-ish' could now clearly be seen as an [Ogre].

"Then you should move away soon, Weiss."

"Understood. Please be careful."

"Yeah. I'll do my best."

This time what I was entrusted to stop was a separate ogre, but I don't think it will be done in so quickly.

In that case, I might have to stab it until it stops.

It's not good to worry Asha-san that much either, but today I'll be a little unreasonable.

To protect the town—

To protect everyone in town—

And in order to have a proper chat with Aura—

I began to run towards the approaching ogre in front of me.

# Chapter 39: It's incomparable

I closed the distance to the ogre.

Contrary to my running, the ogre walks towards me slow and steadily.

I don't know whether that was an indication of composure or something, but I once again affirmed its big frame at this close distance.

Its size could probably rival the dragon from before.

If I continue at this rate, I should be able to start my battle with the ogre in a remote location away from the town.

In that case, the chance of exposing the townspeople to danger will be lowered, and I'll also be able to focus on the battle.

The distance to the ogres grew even shorter.

I was already at a range that the ogre could reach if it extended its arms, or rather, the ogre actually tried to capture me with its arm.

But it's slow. Dude-sense is much faster.

Well, normally, it would be limited to this speed at a size like this, which means I can dodge as much as I like.

“!?”

And yet, I saw it.

The ogre was grinning—

In the next instant, it did an about-face from its previous speed, with an obvious increase in speed.

Completely unprepared, I was unable to deal with that speed and was sent flying like that.

I was grateful for the fact that I really felt no pain, and immediately cast Heal despite tumbling on the ground.

The arms and legs bent in a strange direction returned to normal in an instant, and I recovered to a flawless state.

Thereupon, the ogre's expression changed from a smile to a look of bewilderment.

The opponents it faced until now were probably sent beyond recovery with this one blow, or otherwise died instantly from it.

Even I think I could have an instantaneous death from this one blow if the location was bad, but luck was on my side this time.

“.....Ha. As expected, it's incomparable to the others before now.”

But it was the same for the ogre; I was not one of the opponents it could just kill off like before either.

I psych myself up, and face the ogre once more. The ogre also seemed to realise I was different from its previous enemies, and looked at me as if to examine my state.

“The real performance starts now.....!!”

I won't be negligent any more. I'll deal with it completely, with all my strength—

I switched my knife to an underhanded grip, and the real fight between the ogre and I started.

While watching the ogre's fist approaching, I recall what we learnt in practice and handle it with composure.

The ogre was also a humanoid type, and I soundly slip under the ogre's bosom, freely capitalising on the fruits of my training.

I was able to come to within reaching distance for my arm.

My arm starts to move—

Usually I would cut off the opponent's arm or leg just like that, but unlike the goblins' slender arms, ogre's arm was as thick as my torso.

I was able to make a gash as deep as my knife but it was unable to reach the point of severing it.

In that case, it should be more efficient to use the beginners sword I purchased beforehand despite not being accustomed to it.

I thought to bring it just in case, and now it was worthwhile. I retrieve the sword hidden under my cloak and start amputating the arm.

But the ogre obviously wouldn't let me do so easily, and it swung its fist around.

I crouched down and succeeded in avoiding the danger, and my arm even used the opportunity to stab at the ogre's fist that was passing overhead and managed to lop off the arm just like that.

“GUGYAAAAaaAA!!!”

The Ogre's scream resounds.

To this date, most of my opponents lost their fighting spirit when I cut off their arm, but as expected of an ogre, it instantly regains its footing and rushes at me.

“Heal!!”

While casting recovery magic on myself, I elude the ogre's charge.

I fear my arm wouldn't be able to endure if I tried to ward it off without recovery magic.

I smoothly evade its charge and my arm perceives the ogre turning its back on me.

I trace a line from its back to its neck with my knife.

“GUGYAAAAaaaAAAAAaaaAAAAA!!!!”

A scream arises, even louder than before. Looking at the ogre desperately trying to get away from me, it seems like it's already lost its fighting spirit.

Nevertheless, I have no intention of stopping here. I can't let it escape and harm the town again.

I seriously put my strength into my finishing blow and trace the gap between the ogre's head and torso—

Thunk. The ogre's head fell to the ground with a dull sound.

.....I-is it over.....?

“Heal.”

For now, I cast recovery magic on myself to cure the fatigue from the battle.

I look at the headless ogre collapsing before my eyes.

That was when it finally was aware that it had been killed.

I wonder how long it continued to stare.

I hear footsteps behind me. Weiss probably came to find me on his own because I was too slow.

“Ah, sorry Weiss. I was delayed in telling you to leave when I saw the ogre..... huh?

However, when I turn my head, no one was there, only a lukewarm breeze was blowing.

“Weiss.....?”

I’m sure I heard footsteps. And yet no one was there.

I thought it strange but I reconsider – it might be me mishearing – and then lower my gaze unintentionally.

“Huh.....?”

A sword sprung forth from my chest, dripping with blood.

I spin around at once, and there—

Grinning like the ogre from before had been, was Weiss—

# Chapter 40: I tried imitating the ogre

“Kukuku, you having no sense of pain was true.”

“.....Hey Weiss, stop with the jokes.”

It doesn't really hurt, but having a sword stick out from my chest isn't a good feeling.

Much less he was mimicking the expression of the ogre from before, just what was he thinking?

“That's right. I should certainly stop playing around soon.”

Saying such a thing, he suddenly brings out something he had hidden behind him.

“!!??”

With both arms and legs bound, and a cloth stuffed in her mouth so she couldn't talk, it was [Aura].

“Mmmmmph!”

She frantically struggled to get away from Weiss. However, there was a clear difference in power between the two.

One side was active as an adventurer. The other, someone who simply built up her knowledge of monsters every day.

Furthermore, Aura had all her limbs bound and couldn't move her body

sufficiently.

“If you remove that sword, I will kill this girl so please be warned.”

“Wha!?”

“Ah, I also laced that sword in poison used for torture to amplify the sense of pain. It should come into effect soon.”

.....Just what in the world is happening?

“Ahaha, you’re making a ‘what is happening’ face. Do you still not understand? I was a traitor, that’s what it is. I was also the one who summoned the ogres.”

“.....So what is your objective.....?”

I don’t even know how he manipulated the ogres to start with. He could be considered to possess such mighty strength, but I feel his goal was not clear at all.

“Hmm.. objective, is it. If anything, it’s because of an [order from above].”“About making ogres attack the town like this.....?”

“That’s right. I need to completely destroy the town in the end, you know? Or rather, I sent a goblin army before the ogres this time, but they were done in by [you-know-who].”

.....

No doubt, that’s referring to me.

“Oh, it should be time for the pain to kick in now, I think? It seems even the

strong guys scream from the tremendous pain when I use it, so hang in there, okay?"

.....Indeed, I feel a tiny bit of pain.

Until now, it was only a little itchy but now it felt as sore as I did when I fell over before I learnt recovery magic.

However, it means the poison doesn't end with just this.

When I glance over, Aura was looking this way with an ashen face.

.....If it was going to turn out like this, I should have talked with Aura more. At this rate, it will end without me being able to release Aura from slavery.

I definitely want to prevent that at least, but I don't think I'll be allowed to.

.....Do I really have no choice but to die like this—

—Huh, it doesn't hurt any more than this though.....?

Could it be that this amazing effect was delayed?

"It should soon be too painful for you to talk, I think? Well, that can't be helped though."

.....What to do. I'm definitely the strange one here.....

It looks like he misunderstood my silence on his own, but the pain continued to remain at this level since some time ago.

"That recovery magic is a bother, you see. I expect you won't be able to concentrate on healing because of the pain."

.....I see, it seems his aim was that. In the meantime, he probably intends to

attack the town.

Some time passed, and indeed the pain still didn't increase any further.

I thought that perhaps the effect might just be delayed and put myself on guard, but there was no sign of the pain increasing.

.....But even if I stand around like this, it doesn't mean something will happen.

I could also gamble on the subjugation squad to come this way but honestly, I couldn't really expect it.

Besides, the longer they took, the more likely that the ineffectiveness of the poison would be exposed.

.....Then what should I do?

The sword was still stuck in my chest with my blood flowing out.

Even if it's just this, I want to quickly heal it.

Isn't there.. Isn't there any way to break this state of affairs.....?

—There is.

.....But honestly, I don't really want to do it.

However, it's also no good to missing this moment falling into an unrecoverable situation.....

I must prepare myself—

“GGYYYAAAAAAAaaaAAAa!!! IT HURTSS!! GUAAaaAAa!!”

.....It's too embarrassing.

Right now, I was screaming with all my strength while crouching.

When I tried imitating the ogre's cry from before, I feel like I managed to make it sound like that.

If asked why I was doing such a thing, it was because I hit upon Weiss's brief

comment.

“It seems even the strong guys scream from the tremendous pain when I use it, so hang in there, okay?”

.....even strong guys would scream from the pain.

“Ahaha, as I expected, even someone with no sense of pain will become like this.”

I couldn’t see his face because I was squatting down but I dare say he’s making a terrible face.

Aura may have turned as pale as a sheet, but I can only have her endure it.

“PIKYAAaAAa!!!”

Finally, I raise a magnificent scream, and then collapse on the ground as I was.

I might have overdone it a little but I hope doing this much makes it more intense.

“.....Huh, did he die perhaps? Well, he did have a sword stabbed in him for this long so if it’s inevitable then it can’t be helped.”

.....Alright!!

For the moment, my playing dead strategy is a success!!

“Then, I won’t need this person any longer, huh. Let’s kill her.”

.....Wh-what did he say!?

Crap, I didn't think of that.

I desperately think of even more plans to break out of this situation but nothing decent comes to mind.

"Ah, but it's not good to head into town all bloody so I should just leave her as she is. She didn't even respond to Nestcchi's death anyway."

Even by chance, it was fortunate that he ended up overlooking Aura.

.....Weiss's footsteps drift away. It seems he headed towards the town.

I can't get up immediately so I maintain this collapsed state for a while.

Thereupon, I felt the sensation of something nestling close to me.

".....! .....uU, Nesttt.....wake uppp.....!!"

—It's Aura.

It seems she came over here with her arms and legs bound.

.....N-now then, what to do?

# Chapter 41: It was a joke, teehee

Wh-what should I do no.....?

This is not the mood to just say 'it was a joke, teehee' after all this time.

No matter how I think, it's become a worse state than before though.....

".....uu.....!"

Even now, she had her face pressed to my back and continued to cry.

I want to remove the sword and heal myself some time soon but.....

".....I'm sorry.....!!.....I'm sorry.....!!.....It.....It was my fault so.....!!"

I don't understand what Aura was thinking and why she was apologising to me.

But I do know that if I didn't tell her it was a joke soon, it would get seriously bad later.

.....Alright, I should say it now!

".....uu... Nestt.....!!"

I was about to say it was a joke, but she called my name at that moment and in the end I wasn't able to say it.

".....I've.....!! ...been so..... mean..... until now.....!!

Really. Is she talking about the day I brought Tré home?

“.....I’ll apologise so..... .....I.... I was wrong.. so.....so.....come backkkk.....  
.....!!”

Returning or whatever, I never went anywhere from the start though.

Ah, this is also really bad. It may be as bad as her possibly killing me later if I don’t tell her soon.

However, that I didn’t know when I should make my move was also a fact.

“.....Even today..... when I heard you would release us from slavery..... I .....be abandoned.....”

.....I never thought it’d be like that.....

I just thought it would be inconvenient to be a slave so I said such a thing.....

Huh, but thinking about it clearly, if it was Aura, I feel like she would be fine even without me though.

“.....I just.... wanted to... stay by your side.....!!”

.....Why [Me], I wonder.

I really had no intention of doing anything, and only thought to do normal things.

To want to be with someone like me, I wanted to know why.

“.....Even after this..... .....together.....wanted.....Nesttt.....!!”

Aura continued to nuzzle her head against my back.

I couldn't even say that the sword stabbed in me was dangerous , and could only continue to play dead.

“.....Don’t leave me..... I’ll say anything.....even the things I never said until now..... I’ll say them all so.....!!”

.....The things Aura was unable to say to me, I wonder what the heck they were.

I-it couldn't possibly be that my nostril hairs were coming out, right.....? Eh, it's different, right!?"

“.....I.....you.....”

H-huh? This, something okay to hear just as I am? I-it's not something bad, by any chance, right.....?

“—————I like you..... Never..... I was ever able to say it but..... I..... like..... You!!”

-----Aura.. likes.. me.....?

I was Aura's master, and Aura was my slave. What reason would she have to like me.....

Or rather, this was the first time a girl told me they liked me—

I-it's the first time someone told me they like me—.

After that, as if calming down a little, I felt her weaken the strength with which she clung to my back.

“.....I said I like you so many times so..... wake up already.....!!”

So I had thought, but the power increased again.

But if I get up now, I will be scolded by Aura when I'm awake.....

However, even if I continue playing dead for longer, I might be unable to catch up to Weiss.

In addition, I also want to heal myself soon.

I should just resign myself to be scolded already.

Just when I made that decision, Aura extracts the sword stuck in my chest for some reason.

“..... ...If this is the end then.....just once..... Let me indulge in this bit of selfishness, okay.....”

I didn't know what Aura was thinking but she started to turn my body face up. By the way, my eyes were closed.

.....What was this final bit of selfishness—?

“Nest.....”

.....She called my name but there was no sign of anything happening in particular.

If I'm to get up then it should be now, huh.....

And then, the moment I quietly opened my eyes-----

-----I was kissed by Aura.

It wasn't on the cheek like with Asha-san, but the lips.

Aura had her eyes shut, and didn't realise I was awake.

.....The kiss lasted tens of seconds and still continued without end even now.

I didn't understand how or why it turned out like this, only felt confusion.

And then another tens of seconds.

At last, I saw a sign of the kiss ending.

.....Aura opens her eyes.

Naturally, our gazes cross--

“Eh.....?”

Aura was froze up noticeably. Similar to me, she was making a face like she didn't understand what was happening.

“M-morning?”

We couldn't stay like this forever so I timidly call out.

“Eh.....EH!?

Aura's face flushed red and she separates from me.

“W-why!? I-I did say to wake up but.....eh, wh-what does this mean!?”

It seems she didn't know what she should do in regards to my being alive.

“Calm down, Aura. This was.....”

“Th-this was.....?”

I decided to say the words I needed to now, to calm Aura down.

“—A joke, teehee.”

# Chapter 42: What might you be doing?

I feel like an extremely hard-to-talk atmosphere was currently hanging between Aura and I.

With Aura having said such a thing, she seemed to have difficulty facing me.

Being as I was, I was also tense about whether I would be scolded after this.

“.....”

“H-heal.”

There was no progress so I decide to finish healing myself first.

“...Th-the things I said just now.. y-you heard it all, right.....?”

The things just now, probably referred to the ‘I like you’s from not long ago.

“Y-you heard everything.. f-from the beginning, right.....?”

“Ah, yeah. I heard it all.”

.....I had ended up hearing everything from start to finish.

“I-is that so..... So you heard it.....”

“.....S-sorry?”

Originally, it was Weiss’s betrayal at fault so I don’t think I was to blame.

Nevertheless, I'm sure that I was also wrong for continuing to play dead for so long, so I still apologise.

“.....”

.....However, we can't just stay like this forever.

All joking aside, it'll be bad if I don't catch up to Weiss soon.

“W-well I have to get going soon.....”

When I start, Aura suddenly starts moving from her spot.

“U-um, Aura-san, what might you be doing.....?”

“Nothing.”

—Then why were you picking up the fallen sword?

And why were you coming here whilst holding that sword?

“C-calm down for now, okay.....?”

“.....I am calm though?”

—If that's the case, why did you have teary eyes and a flushed face?

And why were you trembling?

“.....Nest should just shut up and stand there silently.”

“R-right.”

I unintentionally obey the command of my own slave, Aura.

.....Approaching me with the sword in her hand, Aura once again stabbed me in the place I just healed, her face bright red.

"".....""

Aura and I both just stay silent.

And then a short while passed, Aura gently releases the hilt of the sword and separated from that spot without a word.

I thought she might be in danger by herself, but the place Aura headed to was near the town so I suppose she will be fine.

Since Aura is smart, she ought to be well-informed of the dangerous locations.

“Heal”

After Aura left, I extract the sword that Aura stabbed into my body and heal myself.

I don't know what the hell she was thinking for a slave to stab her master, but from my point of view, I think it was nicely settled with just this.

I thought she might do something even more violent because it was Aura, so I was honestly relieved.

.....Well, I can't stay here forever.

I reaffixed the cloak that had various holes everywhere, and ran to the town where Weiss was.

-----[King

POV]-----

I was in the guild.

Apparently some dangerous monster had appeared, and as the king, I was requested to stay in a room of what was known as the safest place in town — the guild.

Incidentally, one of the receptionists who was a former adventurer was left behind to guard me just in case.

.....I actually wanted to watch the gallant figures of the adventurers fighting for the sake of the town, but it couldn't be helped with my position as the king.

Nevertheless, I wonder if the [Jet-black Saviour]-sama was also fighting.

If I learn that my true target for coming to this town was there, I plan to head there even if it's unreasonable.

In that case, I will ignore my position.

If my admired person was there then who on earth would be able to stop me. No, I suppose no one would be able to, or rather I won't let them.

The time ticked away, little by little.

I didn't know how long it continued for, but then there was a knock on the door.

“Yes, who might it be?”

The receptionist responds to the knock.

“I came to report about the subjugation, but is that okay?”

.....A fair amount of time passed so I suppose the subjugation should be over soon.

“.....”

However, the receptionist's reaction wasn't very favourable. She was making a sour face.

While I was thinking that, she turns to me and whispers into my ear.

“If it's a report, usually they make it to the guild master instead of here..... It's possible it might be an enemy targeting you, your majesty, so please be on your guard.....”

I was told to be on guard but in this room, I could only run from place to place.....

The receptionist gently opens the door.

There, was a man with clothes stained with blood—

“!!”

Seeing that, the receptionist immediately attacks but that man lightly parries and stabs with a knife he had hidden in a pocket, and flings her away behind him just like that.

“Kukuku.... Good grief, everyone is just too weak. The ones I heard from my superiors didn't give me much trouble either.”

“Y-your aim is.....”

“Sigh..... That again? All I can tell you is it's an [Order from Above].”

Saying that, the man approaches while pointing the knife towards me.

I know I must escape, but my body doesn't listen to me.

"Now, it ends here."

The man says that and swings down his knife—

"..."

I shut my eyes, preparing myself for the pain to come.

However, there was no matter how long I waited. I timidly open my eyes.

Wrapped in a tattered black cloak, was [him]—

# Chapter 43: Admire the [Jet-Black Saviour]-sama

After parting with Aura, I ran towards the town, where Weiss had headed to some time ago.

Unexpectedly, the town was no different and was operating normally as usual.

The one thing that varied was that everyone was looking at me.

Then again, I was in my [Jet-Black Saviour] outfit so it probably couldn't be helped.

“U-um..... Might you be the [Jet-black Saviour]-sama by any chance.....?”

Among the people watching me, one inquires timidly.

.....I suppose I better not tell them that I'm the real one.

If they know I'm the real deal, my actions might be impeded in the future.

“No, I just admire the [Jet-black Saviour]-sama, you see?”

Even though I'm the real one, it seems to be better to lie here.

When I say such, I could hear voices of agreement saying, “as expected,” from the people around.

However, my outfit was still as such, so people couldn't help peeping over here to catch a glimpse.

It's probably better to temporarily head to the guild for now.....

Right now all the adventurers have been recruited for the subjugation party so there shouldn't be many people there.

I tried to take a route that lead me out of the public gaze as much as possible, and finally managed to arrive at the guild.

Just in case, I open the guild door quietly.

“Wha!?”

The guild was dyed in blood——

The guild master who had taken care of me in the past, and many familiar people wearing armour were lying on the floor.

“.....Uu.”

“!? Hey, are you alright!?”

I imagined the worst case scenario of everyone possibly being dead, but then the guild master gave a moan.

When I looked closely, everyone seemed to be injured but fortunately there wasn't a single person dead.

I immediately start healing everyone.

Apart from the guild master, no one else regained consciousness even after I healed them, so I go to the sole conscious person, the guild master, to confirm what happened.

“Guild master, what happened.....?”

“.....I thought an adventurer came, but he suddenly assaulted us with a sword. Close combat isn't really my forte, and I fell behind when I made a

blunder.....”

It's just a guess, but she's probably talking about Weiss.

“.....And so, where is that adventurer now?”

If I don't catch up to Weiss as soon as possible, the damage might spread even further.

“Yes!! That's right!! He should be heading to the room inside the guild right now, but Asha and the king are on standby there!!”

“Ehh!?”

If by any chance the king gets killed, it won't just end in a serious affair.

And Asha-san's there as well?

The moment I heard that, I single-mindedly ran to the guild's interior without even asking about the guild master lack of movement.

When I was about to turn the corner in the guild's long corridor, I heard some kind of loud noise from the interior.

Thinking that something was happening, I put myself on guard and a familiar person came flying from around the corner at that moment.

It was Asha-san, dressed in a receptionist uniform—

I cast a heal right away and catch her by a hair's breath.

“Eh!? Nest-san!?”

Even in a black cloak, Asha-san immediately recognises me.

I thought her face flushed a deep red when she was in my arms, but then she immediately extracted herself from my embrace.

“Asha-san, where’s the king!?”

The fact that Asha-san came flying out probably meant that Weiss was already there.

“I-inside the room.”

“Got it!!”

I headed towards the room Asha-san had been in with full speed.

When I entered the room, Weiss was already swinging a knife down at the King.

.....Damn! At this rate, the knife will hit him!!

I slip my body into the space between Weiss and the King on the spur of the moment, and stuck my arm out towards the descending knife.

It might be because the poison was still in effect, I could tell that a foreign object had entered my body unlike before.

It seems that I was able to protect the king.

“Your majesty!! Please take this chance to escape now!!”

Weiss been taken aback at my appearance, whom he should have killed, and still hadn’t grasped the current situation

“U-understood.”

At my words, the king fled out the room in a hurry. I can be relieved for now.....

“.....What’s the meaning of this? I’m sure that time.. I thought I killed you but.....”

Finally Weiss opens his mouth.

And I guess I should say I expected it, but he asked about the incident.

“Right, about that..... Yeah, I was playing dead.”

“.....”

Weiss became shocked speechless at that.

“Well, that’s irrelevant right now, right?”

“.....That’s true.”

Weiss and I quietly took a stance with our knives—

# Chapter 44: Finish in one shot

“Anyway, I’m surprised you didn’t die from that.”

Weiss says to me, posed with his knife but not taking a single step forward yet.

“The poison should have been properly applied though.....”

It seems he couldn’t bear the mystery of my being here even now.

“Ah, the poison did have an effect. The pain was there.”

Indeed, there was an effect, but it was merely a little.

I didn’t really intend on telling him that much though.....

“.....”

Once again, silence started dominating the space between us.

But even when we were talking, and now when it was silent like this, we continued to stand with our knives pointed at each other.

It’s just that we were both awaiting our opponents’ move.

“.....Um, can I say something?”

Weiss released his stance, and said such.

“.....What is it?”

I didn't know what Weiss's aim was so I kept up my stance without neglect.

“Since it seems like we're finally going to fight seriously, wouldn't you like to fight in a more spacious area instead of a cramped room like this?”

“.....Huh?”

No, of course I understood what Weiss was trying to say. But he said it in a light tone unbecoming of this tense atmosphere, so I was a little surprised.

“W-well, I don't really mind if it's just that though.....”

If we can fight in a wide area then it'll be easier to move around, which I'd also appreciate more.

“Is there a good place around here? The outskirts of town where we were before is also okay but I don't want any interferences....”

.....A nearby place that's spacious and easy to fight in. If we're talking about a place like that but still won't have many interruptions then.....

It's that place—

And so, we have come to a place where we could fight seriously.

That place was where I, and the other adventurers would be countless be hit, and continue to be hit — the place where our adventurer classes were held.

If it's here, the adventurers won't come because they're busy with the ogre subjugation, and the non-adventurers shouldn't have any special business here and won't come either.

"Hmm, so there was this kind of place in town....."

As I expected, Weiss only just came to the town recently and didn't seem to know about this place.

"Then, let's really start this time."

At those words, I point my knife at Weiss once again.

"Ah, even though I say start, standing at a standstill and not moving like before is bothersome so let's throw a stick and both strike when it falls or something, okay? Then it won't take very long."

".....If you're alright with that then I don't really mind either."

Indeed, I suppose Weiss's proposed method really wouldn't waste time pointlessly.

Furthermore, I can go heal everyone as [Arnest] if I finish quickly.

"Then we'll go with that."

".....Kay."

If I was asked whether the words of a traitor like Weiss could be believed, I'm not sure I could say it's completely fine.

However, when I think about the king and the other guys I encountered on the way here, whose gazes never met mine but trailed behind me, I somehow feel like it's alright.

Weiss picks up a fallen branch from hereabouts.

“Don’t be defeated so easily, okay?”

“Yeah, don’t worry. Because I’m going to cut you up instead——”

After saying such, Weiss flings the stick with all his strength, right above his head.

At the same time, he moves further away from me and continues waiting for the stick to fall.

While we check the whereabouts of the stick, we take our eyes off each other.

The stick approaches the ground while spinning.

After I confirm that, I promptly lower my body, preparing to move under Weiss.

.....At last, the stick falls to the ground.

When I heard the clear sound of it clattering, I and Weiss had already broken off running towards each other.

My hand was tightly grasping my well-accustomed knife and I simply focused on the enemy before my eyes.

I’ll finish this in one shot———!!

Our respective distances had already reached within arm’s length.

Weiss made a move first.

While I held my knife in my right hand, a strike came at me.

Indeed, that attack was fast..... However, it's not at Dude-sensei's level!!

The attack was truly dangerous but there wasn't anything in particular to do after I avoided it.

.....Because after that I'll let my arm finish it on its own.

As always, my arm extends towards Weiss.

And then, the clasped knife slashing down at my opponent—

“Wha!?”

—didn't happen.

My knife was blocked by the additional knife Weiss had hidden in his other hand—

# Chapter 45: With this, it's the end!!

“.....Damnit.”

Weiss and I still haven't reached a conclusion.

My arm, which was my sole attacking method, had its attack completely repelled by Weiss' second knife.

“Is this it?”

Amidst this repetition where neither of our attacks were hitting, Weiss utters with a light tone.

Until now, my arm has been able to cut down my opponents by itself, without my awareness, but I don't have any other methods of attack now that it has been averted.....

As Weiss was saying, my best is only at this level.

“Sigh.... Honestly, I'm disappointed. In that case, I should probably stop playing around, huh.”

“!?”

The next moment, Weiss's attacking speed clearly rose. But that wasn't all, his strength seemed to increase as well.

I had thought for sure that Weiss had been serious before, but casting successive recovery spells and winning through stamina in the end might be tough now.

After Weiss started fighting seriously, I was kept on the defensive.

Due to Weiss continuing to attack with no respite for my arm to react, I was gradually driven into a corner.

Even those attacks I was able to avoid before, I'm not able to now and get wounded.

I'm just barely able to avoid the attacks coming at my neck. That was the situation I was in.

However, I still have my recovery magic left.

“..... Heal!”

When I get wounded, I heal myself and escape danger.

Within that cycle, Weiss suddenly stops attacking for a moment.

“.....As I expected, that recovery magic is amazing. But all the same, if I go so far as to decapitate you, who knows what will happen, right?”

While looking at my neck, he grins.

I was blatantly guarding my neck but it seems to have backfired.....

“Well, you might not let me decapitate you easily, but how's this?”

He declares and simultaneously vanishes.

Where he went and such, I put off searching and use my knife to protect my neck in a panic.

“!!”

In an instant, an earth-shattering shock hits my arm. I end up blown backwards, unable to endure it.

“Heal.”

I finish healing as I stand up, and prepare myself for the next attack.

However, Weiss hadn’t moved from his spot for some time, and didn’t make a move either, as if waiting for me to finish preparing.

“..... Just now, it was like a warm-up before the real performance. From here on, I’ll be revealing my full power, so please hang in there, okay?”

“No wait, how can the attack just now not be your full strength.....”

Even though I’ve been stuck in a deadlock for a while now.....

However, I can’t just keep complaining.

Weiss was already preparing his next attack.

.....Isn’t there something, anything to forestall Weiss just one more time?

Everything I said about me about when we encountered the dragon before is no good.

When I was looking for something, [that] caught my eye.

“.....”

I picked [that] up, and threw it above me with all my strength.

“.....It’s too late to become desperate at this late hour!!!!”

That moment, Weiss disappeared again. However, his target was probably my neck.

Unable to withstand the shock, my knife might end up breaking.

.....But, what was with that?

Don’t I... don’t I have recovery magic that’s even more amazing than this—!!

The shock of the attack started transmitting to my arm, and I understood that my knife was breaking.

Before long, the attack had completely shattered my knife and was extending towards my neck.

With that impression, I stuck my arm out front.

“Heal, HEAL HEAL HEAL HEAL HEAL HEAL HEAL HEEEAALLL———!!”

I can’t feel pain anyway. In that case, I should just use my own body more——

And I can use recovery magic too. In that case, now is the time. I should just use that———

.....maybe because of the poison, I was able to easily tell when Weiss’s knife was about to enter my hand.

However, I won’t let him do it.

I just continued to use nothing but my recovery magic.

.....Gradually, the attacking force disappears.

“Oi oi, is this a joke.....”

Weiss's knife was stopped by my hand.

“Hah..... This is me when I'm serious.”

“B-but Nestcchi, y-you don't have a weapon any more, right.....?”

Perhaps Weiss was greatly surprised that his full-power could be stopped, but he ended up forgetting to distance himself from me.

Suddenly Dude-sensei's words from the other day floated in my mind.

“Try defendin' against your enemies' full body blows!! Ya can think of them as bein' in a [deadlock] with just that!! Are ya gonna lose ta someone like that!!”

.....Yeah, it's true. Seriously, I have no intention of losing---

“.....Who said I have no weapon?”

I release the knife from my grasp, and seize the falling [that].

What [that] was, was a single tree branch---

“With this, it's the end!!”

My arm reacts.

Towards the arm of the dumbfounded Weiss, the stick in my hand came chopping down----

# Chapter 46: A stick being so sharp

“Haa.....haa..... I’ve never heard of.. a stick being so sharp.....”

Weiss, who had collapsed onto the ground after having both arms cut off by me, said while gasping.

“.....Haha. That’s why I said I’m going to cut you up instead, you see?”

.....Well, to be honest, it was a high-stake gamble for me as well, but luckily I succeeded.

“.....Really, you exceeded my expectations.”

It seems Weiss had already lost his fighting spirit, and wasn’t even trying to stand up.

“And so, isn’t it okay to tell me what your intentions for doing this kind of thing are soon?”

He even assembled ogres to do such a thing, so there should be a reason for that in itself.

“.....Haa, haven’t I said it a number of times already? It was an order from above.....”

However, the reply was something I had already heard before.

“Even so, you should still know a little, right? Anything is fine, just tell me. Then I’ll even heal you too.”

If Weiss’s injuries are neglected at this state, there’s a high chance of them leading to his death.

I’m sure that’s the one key for negotiations that I possess right now.

“.....”

It seemed as though Weiss also understood the seriousness of his own injury, as sure enough, he unabashedly looked away from me.

“Look, you also understand it, right? It’s fine even if it’s not everything you know, so just tell me what you can now.”

Weiss probably has his own circumstances. I’m sure there are also things that he really can’t say.

There might be slight problems with me healing him if he just tells me what he can say, but to my knowledge, Weiss hasn’t killed a single person yet.

In that case, I don’t want to go so far as to kill him.

Well, I’m not sure about the safety of the adventurers who are fighting the ogres, but Dude-sensei and his party should be there, so I probably don’t have to worry.

But for some reason, Weiss seemed to hesitate indefinitely and didn’t speak.

“Hey, tell me a little. After all, I beat you.”

Well it was mostly due to luck though.....

“.....No, somehow it’s not quite decided yet, you know?”

“Huh?”

He finally spoke after a long time, but he said such a thing all of a sudden. Not really understanding Weiss’s intentions, I unintentionally let out a questioning sound in response.

“—I never thought Weiss-kun would ever lose.”

“!!??”

Before I knew it, [that guy] was standing behind me.

In complete contrast to me, he was wearing a white cloak with his face concealed and gave me a somewhat nostalgic impression.

I immediately distance myself from that spot and take a stance with the stick in my hand, but [that guy] ignores me and heads to Weiss.

“Heal”

[That guy] cast recovery magic on Weiss.

I wonder if he was thinking to at least stop the bleeding.....?

“—Huh?”

In the next moment, Weiss’ arm which was supposed to have been cut off by

the stick, newly regrew.

“Sigh, it really hurt. Didn’t you come too late?”

“Not at all. Even like this, I rushed quite a bit. I didn’t think Weiss-kun would lose so I certainly might have taken my time for part of it though.....”

“I-if I’m told that, then there’s nothing I can say.”

.....They were chatting on good terms for some reason, but I didn’t care about that.

More than that, what was that recovery magic just now?

It seems familiar. It was.. exactly the same as my recovery magic.

“Y-you.. Could I possibly have met you before.....?”

To be honest, I’ve practically forgotten about what happened in the past, but I remember being attracted by the recovery magic I saw for the first time, and so far I have been practicing my recovery magic by using that as a reference.

.....That being the case, in regards to people who can use the same recovery magic as me, it’s inevitable that there is at least one person who can.

I also know there’s certainly the possibility of me having seen ordinary recovery magic in the past and altering it inside my mind without realising.

However, if it was really the recovery magic I first saw then it makes sense somehow.

I also can understand the nostalgia from the white cloak, and the abnormality of my recovery magic above all as well.

“.....”

[That guy] silently looked this way. The conversing with Weiss also stopped, and I'm sure he was looking at me.

.....I wonder how long he continued to do so.

Suddenly, [that guy] took his eyes off me.

"Weiss-kun, it seems like the ogres were defeated by the adventurers. We ought to be going soon too."

"Understood."

Saying that, [that guy] retrieved some sort of spherical object from under his cloak and threw it at the ground.

Thereupon, the smoke emerging from that object starts enveloping us.

"-----"

"!!"

Leaving those words behind, [that guy]'s figure completely disappeared within the smoke.

The smoke was fanned by wind, and when my vision gradually improved, the two figures were no longer there and only I stood in that place.

In the end, I didn't learn anything about their target, and only discovered one thing.

That was because, I'm sure [that guy] left these words for me.

"Well then.. you're still not worthy. Arnest-kun."

I have encountered [that guy] in the past—

# Chapter 47: The Jet-Black Saviour has Arrived!!

“In commemoration of the ogre subjugation, Cheers!!”

“““CHEERS!!!”””

Right now, I was participating in the party held at the guild.

When I first returned to the guild after the battle with Weiss, I was scolded by Asha-san for following the enemy to a place we would be alone. After that, I healed all those injured, not as the [Jet-Black Saviour], but as [Arnest].

Then, we cleaned up the blood-stained guild and have now reached this point.

In reality, the matter with Weiss is yet to be settled, but we should just enjoy ourselves for now.

“Hell yeah guys, let’s do a lotta drinkinggggg!!”

“““YEAHHHHhhhhhHH!!!”””

As expected of adventurers, the way they get excited at these times is different.

Ah, by the way, although I said I’m participating in the guild’s party, I still haven’t eaten or drunken anything.

.....What am I doing then? That would be [cooking].

The events this time were unknown to almost everyone but the adventurers, so they weren’t invite.

Thus, the number of people who could cook were inevitably few so.....

It’s true that sort of thing would be considered typical in regards to whether it

is adventurer-like though.

The ones cooking were two groups: Lily and I, and Aura and Asha-san.

Asha-san was quick in sensing the awkward atmosphere between Aura and I, and made these groups.

T-Tré's inability to cook was.. well, it's like that. She's currently at home.

In other words, Lily and I were cooking as a pair but.....

“Together with Nest~”

I didn't know what there was to be so happy about, but she stuck to me every time she found spare moment when cooking. Well when I think about it, it might be that I've been too busy lately and haven't been playing with her much.

“Lily is a cute one.”

I pat Lily's head, who was sticking to me.

She was being obedient like this, unlike a certain somebody.

“Lily isn't holding a knife behind her back, right~?”

“Hm?”

Her little head tilts at my words.

That action is also very adorable!!

After that, having enjoyed myself patting Lily's head, I resume cooking together with Lily.

We finally managed to obtain food when the cooking was almost finished.

“Oh Nest!! I heard you made this!! It’s super delicious!!”

Yup, that’s the one Asha-san made.

Gradually, all the adventurers drunk themselves into a stupor, and started laying down on the floor of the guild.

Lily was also taken away by Asha-san and Aura.

At last, staying awake was just me alone, so I decided to go sleep soon.

“Before sleeping, toilet.....”

If I remember correctly, I saw one in the middle of the guild corridor.

When I walk down the dark hallway, I saw the room I thought to be the restroom.

—————Crash.

“.....”

I think I heard it from the room next to the lavatory.

.....Did Weiss return perhaps?

If so, it would be trouble. I timidly extend my hand to the door.

Inside the room was.. [a black cloak]—

However, it was dark so I couldn’t see any more than that.

“The Jet-black saviour has arrived!!”

“Hey, who are you!!??”

Who could blame me for unintentionally retorting.

“!!”

When the self-proclaimed [Jet-Black Saviour] realised I was there, he tried to hide himself in great haste but honestly, I couldn’t help thinking it was too late.

“Wait!”

I should catch him and check his identity just in case.

“.....Your Majesty!?”

The identity of the self-proclaimed [Jet-Black Saviour] turned out to be the king.

“I-I’m sorry!!”

In a panic, I lower my head and apologise. However, the king also seems to be in a fluster.

“N-no, you’re mistaken!! I-it’s not like I was trying to pretend to be the [Jet-Black Saviour] or anything!!”

“.....”

If he's trying to hide it then I should probably start with not attaching - sama.....

Perhaps the king also didn't think he concealed it well now, but his face was pale.

“.....Shall we head outside for the time being?”

If someone was to see us when we're discussing here, it might trouble the king who had apparently come incognito.

Luckily, it was now late at night, and if we speak outside then we shouldn't wake anyone with our talking either.

With me in the lead, we were able to come to the vicinity of my house without anyone seeing.

“.....Er, first of all, do you remember me, Your Majesty? We've met once before.”

“Yeah, I remember. You were one of the healers brought along to heal my daughter.”

I've only met with the king once, so I thought for sure he would have forgotten me but, unexpectedly, he remembered.

“Yes, we met there. And as far as it goes, I'm also Aura's master.”

I heard from Asha-san that Aura guided the king when I was away, so I added that as well.

“Oh, so you're Aura's master. Please tell her I'm indebted to her this time.

Also, I also said this to Aura, but it's fine not to use honorifics when it's just the two of us."

It looks like he said it in passing, but that's usually no good.

Well, I'm poor at using polite language so I won't if I don't have to.

Using it with Asha-san is because it has already become a habit so it can't be helped though.....

"Understood.....And so, just what did your majesty come to the guild to do!?"

When I ask that, the king comes before me and grasps me strongly.

"This is my once-in-a-lifetime request!! Please don't tell anyone about the thing just now!!"

With the king pressing closely in desperation, I nod in a panic.

"I-I understand. So please let go for now."

However, the king's state seemed to be strange for some reason. Sinking into silence, he was staring at me with his eyes wide open

.....No, that's wrong. Certainly, it's true that he turned this way, but our eyes didn't meet.

Then where was he looking.....?

If I follow the king's line of sight then.. my [ear]?

“Umm.. Your majesty?”

Despite being surprised by his abrupt change, I call out to the king.

“.....I-I’m sorry but may I make another once-in-a-lifetime request?”

“Uh, well it’s fine but.....?”

The king still had his gaze resting on my ear as he said that.

I wonder just what that second once-in-a-lifetime request is.

I didn’t think that he’d say something difficult, but I was still a little nervous anyway.

.....Several seconds later, the king finally gave me his request.

“P-please shake my hand!!”

Bending his waist deeply, he held out both his hands before me, while———

# Chapter 48: Yeah, sorry. That's impossible

The king was still standing with his hand extended out to me.

I didn't know what's what, but I can't leave the situation as it is, so I timidly grab that extended hand in return.

“!!”

The moment I grasped it, the king's body shook with a start, and he grasped my hand tightly for several seconds before slowly releasing it.

The king finally straightens his back as well, and his eyes overflow with joy like a little kid as he looks at his own hand.

“Err... Why did you.....?”

I asked the king, who showed no signs of returning from that situation no matter how much time passed.

In reaction to those words, the king slowly looks back at me.

“Th-that earring.....”

.....Ah, come to think of it, I received this earring from a servant girl at the castle when I healed her, but perhaps the king knew of that girl.

In that case, the fact that I possess the earring that the [Jet-black Saviour] who infiltrated in the middle of the night should have had meant that I was the [Jet-black Saviour].

“.....My daughter.”

“Eh——?”

Wh-what did he say just now? The king’s daughter. In other words, the Saint.....?

“Y-you’re the [Jet-Black Saviour], right.....?

.....Should I answer honestly here, or should I play dumb?

To be honest, if it’s just the servant girl’s earring then it might be fine to say I bought it from a shop near there, but if it was possessed by the Saint then there’s no way I could have bought it from a shop near there.

“No, I understand it!! That saving people without exposing your identity is a man’s romance!! I’m sorry for just now!! But I won’t reveal your identity to anyone, so please don’t worry!!”

But while I was troubled about whether or not to say it, the king enthusiastically started talking for some reason.

“C-calm down for the moment!”

Despite it being the middle of the night, he was talking in such a loud voice so I obviously had him stop.

“Ah!! My apologies, for me of all people to have lost my composure like that.....”

Well, if someone you admired to even go so far as to attach -sama to their name appeared before you, everyone would probably become like this no matter who they were but.....

“Ah, well, I guess so. It’s true that I’ve been called the [Jet-black Saviour] but I’m not really such an amazing person. Please don’t use formal language either.”

“Wha!? For an insect like me to speak to the [Jet-Black Saviour]-sama informally is.....”

No, aren’t you the king!?

“Well, er.. Look, just like your majesty said before, I don’t want to be so conspicuous. And yet, if the king starts using honorifics for me just from using mere recovery magic, wouldn’t I stand out no matter how much I dislike it? Therefore, consider it for my sake, okay?”

“B-but.....”

However, it might be that the king greatly deifies the [Jet-Black Saviour] deep inside, but he doesn’t seem to acknowledge it no matter how much time passes.

But I can’t leave it like this is either.....

“W-well then, if you stop speaking formally, then I’ll listen to any one thing you ask.”

“!!”

The king reveals an even larger reaction than during the handshake before.

“I-is that for real!?”

“Yeah, it’s real. Well, it’s only if you stop with the formalities though.”

“I-I will stop!! I will stop speaking formally!!”

“You’ll stop.....?”

The king finally assents, but I corner him further.

“I’m stopping!! I won’t use formal language!!

After much difficulty, I managed to succeed in making him completely stop speaking formally to me.

“So, what do you want from me?”

And thus, I was about to listen to one of the king’s requests like I promised, but the king’s face was covered in a large smile.

Ah..... something bad is coming.

“P-please make me your disciple!!”

“Yeah, sorry. That’s impossible.”

Just now, the king’s face steeped with despair.

“W-whyy!?”

Well no matter what, you are the king, right? Where would you find someone who would take in a king as a disciple.....

“A-at least think about it a little!! After all, I finally stopped the formalities, you know!?”

“Mnn, that’s true.....”

“U-until tomorrow morning at least!! Think about it until tomorrow morning!! Because I’ll ask you again then!!”

Due to the king’s strong wishes, I was made to think about the matter until tomorrow.

However, if I refuse and the king reveals the [Jet-Black Saviour]’s identity then it would be terrible. Ah, it’s too troublesome to think about it now so I’ll just think about it just before bed.....

Reaching a pause in the conversation, we head towards my house.

It’s annoying to go back to the guild now so we decided on my house, which was relatively close.

“Ah, come to think of it.....”

“Hm, what is it?”

“Would it be better to remove this earring?”

Until now, I didn’t think anything special of it and just put it on, but it did cause my identity to be revealed.....

“Hmmm, there are only a few people in the kingdom who know about this earring.”

If it's just living a normal life, I would hardly be worried, but I'm not guaranteed to be the only exception.

"If you're worried, then I suppose taking it off just in case is also an option."

"Understood. Then I guess I'll remove it."

I also agreed with the king's advice so I remove the earring attached to my ear, and put it in my pocket.

"I'm home, Tré."

When we return to my house, had come to the entrance to greet us.

"Welcome home, Master.....And that person is...?"

It seems she never met him when she was still a noble, and meeting the king for the first time and not knowing who he was, she tilts her head in puzzlement.

"Ah, he's an acquaintance from town."

It might be found out later anyway, but thinking it didn't really have to be so late at night, I told a lie.

Since I didn't hear anything from the person himself, the king probably didn't mind.

"I see, is Master and his companion hungry.....?"

Tré asks me, but luckily I had eaten before coming so I wasn't hungry.

The king, however...

"Actually, I haven't eaten anything so I'll be grateful if I could have something to eat."

.....As I expected. After all, he never appeared at the banquet.

But, my condolences. Since he'll be eating Tré's cooking.

.....Tré went to the cooking classes, and it's true that she continued to improve.

That was, the unappetisingness of her cooking did—

"Th-then I'll be returning to my room first, so....."

"Ah, Master!!"

When I try to hurry to my room, Tré called out to me.

.....Wh-what is it?

"Actually, a guest came just now, but the guest was tired so I put them in the largest room, Master's room, because I thought Master wouldn't return home. Was that okay.....?"

"Ah, it's fine. Thanks for dealing with them."

As a reward, I pat her head.

Recently, this is what I've been doing to reward Lily and Tré. Somehow she seemed happy with that, and closed her eyes in pleasure.

.....Nevertheless, it was good. It was really good that she didn't say to eat together or something.

I think I might have heard a shout from behind me, but I opened the door to my own room to grab new clothes in order to change my dirty clothes for the time being.

“——Eh?”

“Eh.”

I did indeed hear from Tré that there was a guest, but I forgot to ask whether they were male or female.

Inside was, perhaps she was in the middle of changing clothes or something, but there was a naked girl.

Moreover, that girl was someone I recognised.

“Uhh, you.....”

The one there was the girl I healed in the one room I found when running about the castle.

In other words, it was the [Saint]-sama——

# Chapter 49: The Saint's Recovery Magic is a Degraded Version of Mine

“.....Eep.....”

When the saint's gaze met with mine, she let out a frightened voice and prepared to scream.

“S-sorry!!”

Before she could do that, I rotate my body and immediately close the room door.

Well, how should I put it..... I never thought the guest Tré told me about referred to the [Saint]-sama.

Nevertheless, I wonder if she perhaps came her from the capital by herself.

“.....U-um... Might you still be there.....?”

While I was thinking about one thing or another, a small voice called out from within the room.

“A-ah, yes. I'm here, more or less.”

“.....Ah, um.. I've finished changing so it's alright to come in now.”

Having received permission to enter from the Saint, I cautiously open the door.

.....However, there is one thing I must be careful of when talking to the saint. That is, I mustn't let the Saint realise that I know her true identity.

"Um.. Nice to meet you. My name is Luna. I am serving as the current [Saint]."

.....Oblivious of that needless anxiety of mine, the Saint unexpectedly divulges her own identity at once.

"H-huh, is it alright to simply reveal that you are the [Saint] just like that?"

I thought for sure that the attire she wore for the charity work in the past, was to hide her identity though.....

"....."

Hereupon, the Saint sunk into silence and started to pale.

"W-was that no good, perhaps.....?"

And then asks me with a pale face.

"Ah, indeed, it might be better not to say it from now on. I won't tell anyone so you can rest assured though."

"Th-thank you very much. B-but I was also going to ask that of you anyway."

I took her into consideration when I said that, but it seems this saint might have a strong competitive spirit.

In that case, I wonder if there's any means of making use of that in reverse.....

"Then it's better that I don't use honorifics either, right? Since I don't know what might cause you to be exposed."

"Well, I don't mind."

"And so, how did you come here? From the looks of it, you don't have any escorts or anything."

Having received the Saint's acknowledgement, I promptly ask what was on my mind, without using any honorific speech.

".....That's.. I did bring several escorts in the beginning, but they were attacked by a crimson dragon en route."

Ah.. Huh? That crimson dragon, it couldn't possibly be the one we saw, right.....?

"Normally there shouldn't be any reason for a dragon to appear in such a place, so it might have been that the dragon had just finished recuperating from an injury by some chance and we just happened to be unlucky to encounter it."

Yup, that was probably the one I healed.

"I-it must have been tough."

I frantically feign calmness so she wouldn't sense my trembling.

“My escorts played the decoy and let me go on ahead so I was able to come all the way here, but I’m worried about my escorts so.....”

“I-is that so.”

Really, I pray for the safety of those escorts from the bottom of my heard.

“Also, speaking of which, why did you come here?”

I asked her how she came here some time ago, but I didn’t get to hear her reason for coming.

“Th-that is.....”

“GYAAAAAAaaAA!!”

When the Saint attempted to say something, the king’s yell was heard from outside the room.

I completely forgot about it, but I’m sure he started to eat Tré’s cooking just then.

“Just now, that was... Father!!?”

“Ah.. Hey!”

I chase after the Saint who swiftly flew out of the room, and head to where Tré and the king were.

When I caught up to the saint, on the floor of the room was the saint, who was casting recovery magic on the collapsed, with the whites of his eyes

showing, king, and Tré was sitting in the corner of the room, hugging her knees.

“Heal! .....As I expected, Heal won’t do..... In that case, Death Poison, Refresh, High Heal!!”

It seems as though her wave of three consecutive healing spells succeeded, and although the king didn’t regain consciousness, his expression looked more at ease.

“Haa, with this I can rest assured. .....Oh?”

After the healing, it seems Tré’s cooking had been projected in the Saint’s gaze.

“Come to think of it, I still haven’t eaten anything. It looks like Father has also partaken, so I will also partake as well, okay?”

If she thought about it calmly, she should have realised the reason behind the king collapsing, but the saint had it tough, having been worn out and her judgement also faltering.

“.....Ugu.....”

Before I could stop her, the Saint had a taste of the cooking and followed the same path as the king had before.

Even her especially beautiful eyes had rolled over, and I once again felt the horror of Tré’s cooking.....

“.....\*sob\*.....”

Knowing that she was the one to cause this situation, Tré had stayed in the corner the whole time.

“.....Tré, everyone makes mistakes. I-it’s okay to try again n-next time.”

“.....M-master.”

After comforting Tré, I approach the collapsed saint and perform healing on her.

“Heal.”

Tré’s cooking was so potent that the Saint’s recovery treatment couldn’t handle it.

However, the saint, whose eyes were rolled over in pain with the whites of her eyes showing, calmed down and returned to her original beautiful face the moment I cured her.

“Sigh, as expected, it becomes like that.....”

As I expected, it only took me one try.

In regards to the Saint’s recovery magic being a degraded version of mine in all appearances, Someone tell me the meaning of this!!

And while you’re at it, do something about this situation!!

While looking at the two on the floor, I grumble in secret——